THE TIMES 35p

No. 66,056 TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25 1997 http://www.the-times.co.uk

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Why Gordon Brown has money to spend
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Erica Wagner samples the new British Library
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'Domesday survey' lists treasures

Go-ahead for Whitehall sale of assets

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

ALL government departments will be allowed to sell their assets and go into business as commercial enterprises under proposals unveiled by the Treasury yesterday.

Alistair Darling, the Treasury Chief Secretary, published a 550-page *National Asset Register* listing the land, buildings, equipment and art owned by the Government. It gave no overall valuation for the assets, but Treasury sources believed it was at least £300 billion.

From next April departments will be able to sell assets of a maximum single-item value of £100 million and retain the money. The value of total sales for any financial year may not be more than 3 per cent of a department's overall spending and the money can be used only to finance capital spending — such as investment in buildings — but not to boost its current running costs.

If departments gamble on a commercial venture by renting out their land, houses or office space, they will be able keep the profits. However, Mr Darling said last night that the Government could decide at any time to transfer resources from one department to another.

The register, dubbed the "Government Domesday Book", disclosed that Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, presides over the biggest treasure trove of historic buildings, landmarks and works of art, including the National Gallery, the Government Art Collection, the Royal Parks and the BBC. The department, which admits to a modest 4.75-acre landholding north of St Pancras Station in London, also owns five heritage assets: Trafalgar Square, Apsley House, part of Osborne House, Marble Arch and Wellington Arch. And Mr Smith is responsible for keeping the pigeons off 58 London statues.

The Foreign Office owns 136 embassies, 157 ambassadorial residences and 1,054 houses and flats for diplomats. It also owns 94 other properties such as tennis courts, garages, guardrooms and stores.

But the report said that the great majority of the Foreign Office's heritage assets were held in 26 major posts "where the buildings are of exceptional historic and architectural interest".

There were some surprises in the register. The Defence Ministry owns a church, St George's at Biggin Hill, southeast London, as well as 709 works of art and 226 antiques.

The Scottish Office owns 34 offices and homes, ranging from 28,000 square yards at Victoria Quay in Leith, Edinburgh, to a wooden hut at Scorrybreck in Portree.

Agriculture has only one combine harvester and two lawnmowers, but its lack of rural commitment is made up by the Transport Deparment, which has 165 Old English long-horned cattle.

Among the ideas in Whitehall last night for departmental business interests were museums to exhibit national treasures, an Army theme park, private sports clubs on government land or more car parks. The Education Department may even publish school textbooks and crammers.

Mr Darling said that the Treasury intended keeping a firm control on all commercial activity and would be maintaining "a watchful eye" on departmental decisions to sell any buildings, land, equipment, furniture or paintings and antiques.

He said the Government was not about to embark on a sell-off of national treasures and denied he was selling the family silver. He added: "This is not a sales catalogue and there are no price tags on individual items. This is an attempt to make it easier for departments to deal with their assets more efficiently, just like businesses do."

He said that the purpose of the register was to be open with the public about the extent of government assets and to allow greater public access to them. "There are many heritage items that the Governnment holds for the nation in perpetuity. Now that all the assets are out in the open, the public can put pressure on ministers to be able to view these assets."

He confirmed that ministries would not be selling anything bequeathed to the nation.

Mr Darling accepted that the Treasury had to set an example and that he had already inquired whether the department really needed the use of fork-lift trucks.

Full details, page 6

SEAN DEMPSEY / PA

Humphrey, the former Downing Street cat, with his new friend, Moby the goldfish, at a secret location in south London yesterday

No mystery cat, but still the hidden paw

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

DOWNING Street went to extraordinary lengths yesterday to disprove reports that Humphrey the cat had not been killed off by Cherie Blair but was alive and well in a new home in the suburbs.

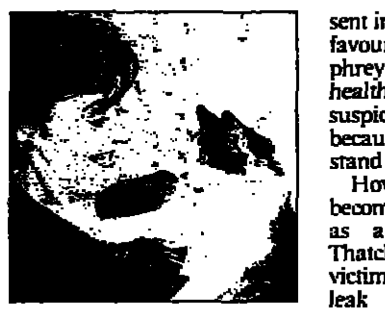
Under strict security conditions normally reserved for the Budget one handpicked camera crew and photographer were led, in a cloak-and-dagger chase, to the 11-year-old cat's new home with a civil servant and his wife in a south London suburb.

Downing Street's damage-limitation team swung into action after fur began to fly. No 10 was deluged with telephone calls and letters from cat lovers alarmed at the abrupt disappearance on November 13 of Margaret Thatcher's favourite feline.

A rare on-the-record statement from Cherie Blair was rushed out by Downing Street. It not only denied that she had signed the death warrant, but proclaimed her affection for the pet everyone knew she hated.

Having insisted that the namesake of Sir Humphrey Appleby, fictional Permanent Secretary of BBC Television's *Yes Minister*, was the last feline resident when he was pensioned off, Downing Street announced a U-turn yesterday; a replacement has been appointed.

The well-oiled government public relations operation, which presided over the shambles of the Formula One affair, came unstuck again. A photocall was staged with the bemused black and white cat who, according to the official version of events, was retired from public life because of kidney failure, at his new home. A daily newspaper would be on display, the date showing clearly.



Cherie Blair appearing in her own defence

But the plan, with its echoes of the John McCarthy and Terry Waite hostage photos, was almost abandoned after a squabble over which newspaper would be used. In the end he posed with half a dozen. Far from looking at death's door, as Downing Street had stated when he was sent into exile with basket and favourite toy mouse, Humphrey looked a picture of health, prompting renewed suspicion that he was ousted because Mrs Blair could not stand the sight of him.

However, one thing has become clear. The cat, adopted as a stray by Margaret Thatcher in 1989, has been the victim of the only conclusive leak inquiry in Downing Street's history. Humphrey, who lived happily under the Thatcher and Major administrations, became incontinent under the new regime — as damp patches on the entrance mat proved.

At yesterday's Downing Street press briefing — a time normally reserved for pressing issues of state — Humphrey's fate dominated proceedings. Many questions were asked. Was he still around or had he gone to the great cattery in the sky? One journalist asked: "How do you respond to speculation that Mrs Blair wanted Humphrey dead ... and someone took this literally?" The reply came: "It's not what happened. It's a lie, a calumny."

To underline the point Mrs Blair, who once cuddled Humphrey to dispel reports that she thought cats unhygienic, said in a statement: "The whole family was sorry that Humphrey's failing health meant that he had to retire somewhere quiet away from the hectic pace of life in Downing Street, especially as the children were only just getting to know him."

Should Humphrey have swapped homes? Bob Stevenson, a former officer of the British Veterinary Association, said: "I am not sure whether a move from the household a cat knows would be high on any vet's agenda if he had kidney failure."

The stud that Straw runs

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

EIGHT stallions with an impressive record in siring racetrack winners are the prize assets of the Home Office.

A ninth has yet to prove its worth at the National Stud but hopes are high that Hector Protector will match the impressive record of First Trump and secure a more than 90 per cent success rate in putting mares in foal.

The stallions are either wholly or partly owned or leased by the National Stud. First Trump, who charges a £4,000 fee for each covering with a mare, is wholly owned by the stud. His first foals sold for up to 53,000 guineas. Miles Littlewort, chief executive of the stud, said: "We do not race horses but buy them at the end of their racing careers in the hope that they will pass on their genetic ability to their off spring".

State ownership of the stud is a legacy of an offer made during the First World War. In 1916 Colonel William Hall Walker, later Lord Wavertree, gave his stud and bloodstock to the nation on condition that it bought his breeding establishment at Tully in Co Kildare.

Until 1943, the British national stud remained in southern Ireland, but after deciding it was impractical to remain there, it was moved to Dorset before finally making its way to Newmarket.

In 1963 responsibility for the stud was transferred from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Home Office which has overall responsibility for horse racing and gambling. A committee of inquiry decided that the stud should "stand" only high class stallions and two years later, under the wing of the Horse Race Betting Levy Board, the stud moved to Newmarket and leased 550 acres from the Jockey Club.

First Trump: stallion with a superb record

The stud can board up to 200 mares on a permanent or seasonal basis and it prepares yearling and foals for sale. In addition to breeding, the stud is also involved in providing education and training for students from England and abroad.

While the stud is probably the most exotic asset under the control of Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, he also has responsibility for a huge 135 prison estate and secret underground bunkers.

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Hunt curb on ministry land

Hunts have been banned from "digging out" foxes on Ministry of Defence land, the Government announced.

As campaigners began to mobilise for Friday's crucial vote in the House of Commons, John Spellar, the Defence Minister, said that all hunts had been told of the ban on estates owned by the MoD ..... Page 2

Test could cut smear test errors

A computer test for cervical cancer could save the lives of hundreds of women every year and cut the number of incorrect smear test results.

The analysis, which is based on assessing the density of blood vessels in tissue, could also be developed to give early warning of other cancers ..... Page 8

Back in touch

His weight and cholesterol are both down and his injured knee recovered but at 51 President Clinton now wears a symbol of advancing age: a pair of hearing aids... Page 15

Yamaichi chief sobs as firm collapses

By Our Foreign Staff

SOBBING with shame and humiliation, the president of Yamaichi Securities yesterday begged for work for his 7,500 employees, as his firm collapsed with liabilities of $24 billion (£14.2 billion). "It breaks my heart that the situation has turned out like this," Shohei Nozawa said, choking with emotion as the securities firm marked its 100th birthday by going into liquidation and provoking new concerns about the knock-on effect to be felt in other markets by Japan's economic problems.

In London the Financial Times 100-share index fell 87.2 points to end the day at 4,898.6. In New York the Dow Jones industrial average fell 50 points in early trading.

Arriving in Vancouver for the Asia-Pacific economic summit Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, insisted that Japan's difficulties were different from the currency problems elsewhere in Asia. "I would like to make clear that Japan's problems are completely separate from those of the so-called Asian currency crisis," he said. "I would not like you to make such a connection lightly."

He insisted Japan could solve its financial problems internally, making a distinction between the world's second-largest economy and countries like South Korea and Thailand, which have had to ask the International Monetary Fund for bailouts.

President Clinton and other Pacific Rim leaders pledged to take immediate steps to prevent the Asian crisis spreading.

But the unfamiliar gloom of financial turmoil hung over the opening day of the economic summit which traditionally celebrates the Asian "economic miracle".

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Earl Spencer had a dozen affairs, court told

Spencer: seeks divorce

From Inigo Gilmore in Cape Town

EARL SPENCER, the brother of Diana, Princess of Wales, had affairs with up to 12 women during his marriage, a court was told yesterday.

He asked his wife, Victoria, for a divorce after calling her into his bathroom while he was having a bath and telling her that he was in love with another woman.

At the hearing in Cape Town to decide whether the divorce will proceed in a South African or British court, Jeremy Gauntlett, Lady Spencer's lawyer, said: "The court will hear that Earl Spencer has led an adulterer's life."

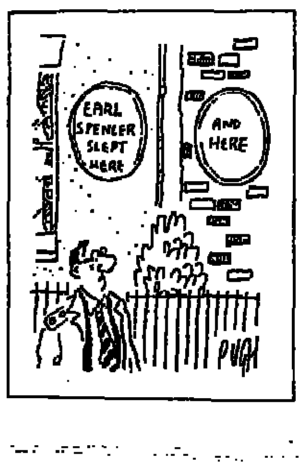
He went on: "Within months of the marriage, the plaintiff was unfaithful. There have been a whole series of liaisons thereafter."

Mr Gauntlett said that friends of Lady Spencer had informed her, while she was in an eating disorder rehabilitation clinic, that her husband had slept with ten to 12 women.

Lady Spencer, a former model, wants the divorce heard in Britain because she believes that she will get a larger settlement.

Her lawyers argued that the couple were both legally domiciled in Britain and therefore the South African court had no rights to decide on a divorce between

Continued on page 3, col 3



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Never-Never Land welcomes 'old-age traveller'

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

It was John Wilkinson (C. Ruislip Northwood) who began the trail which led to the arrival in the chamber of Peter Temple-Morris (Leominster) — who sat down on the wrong side. Mr Temple-Morris has left the Tory party and yesterday crossed the floor.

Labour staged the event magnificently.

Mr Wilkinson's question was about refugees. Laurence Robertson (C, Tewkesbury) wanted to put ministers straight: we were not talking "about New Age Travellers, but old-age travellers".

At the word "new," Dennis Skinner jerked upright. The unreconstructed Labour MP for Bolsover is everything new Labour hate, and the feeling is mutual. "New Labour, new traveller." he spat. A bearded wraith of a junior minister, George Howarth, spat back: he trusted "old-age traveller" did not mean Skinner.

Hardly. Three months short of his 60th birthday, Peter Temple-Morris, his hair soft and snowy-white as a goose's breast, travelled south across the bar of the House, then travelled west, on to the Labour benches.

A Prime Ministerial Statement had just begun. Drowned by cheers from behind him. Blair grinned maddeningly.

The interruption was no accident. Rumours of the moment at which he would arrive had been circulating for hours. Temple-Morris knew exactly where to go. As if by miracle, a solid phalanx of Labour MPs opened like the Red Sea to swallow the newcomer into a Temple-Morris-sized gap between Dale Campbell-Savours (Lab, Workington) and Harry Barnes (Lab, Derbys NE).

The cheers, and Mr Blair's merry grin, continued.

Shaking hands, Temple-Morris became instantly engrossed in friendly conversation: a chat for which Campbell-Savours seemed prodigiously prepared and from which neither flagged. The launch of Mr Temple-Morris into his new pond helped the PM off to a fine start.

Blair was reporting on an EU "Jobs Summit" triumph in Luxembourg. He wore for the occasion a tie decorated like a peacock's tail.

The design was auspicious. When sure of his ground, Tony Blair is now an almost ostentatiously assured performer. Undented by a well-crafted attack from William Hague, Blair handled yesterday's statement with real poise, batting every objection airily and fluently aside. His timbre, hand-movements — his whole bearing — reek of power. His voice breathes command. It is only that grin still lets him down.

Rereading J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* recently, I was struck by the parallels between Tony Blair and Peter Pan, and between the British public and Peter's number one fan: Wendy. It was Wendy who made a young man of Peter by attaching him to his own shadow . . .

". . . and now he was jumping about in the wildest glee. Alas, he had already forgotten that he owed his bliss to Wendy . . . 'How clever I am,' he crowed rapturously, 'oh, the cleverness of me!'

It is humiliating to have to confess that this conceit of Peter was one of his most fascinating qualities. To put it with brutal frankness, there never was a cockier boy.

But for the moment, Wendy was shocked . . .

'Wendy,' he said, 'don't withdraw. I can't help crowing when I'm pleased with myself.'"

With Temple-Morris comfy behind him, his backbenchers cheering him, the Tories scowling and the press writing it down, our modern Peter Pan couldn't help crowing.

His Tinker Bell, the Minister without Portfolio, was nowhere to be seen: Mr Mandelson had flown away to scatter magic dust over crowds of journalists.

Gallery charges likely to spread

By Philip Webster

LABOUR'S hopes of helping Britain's most prestigious national museums and galleries to scrap entry charges are expected to fail because of a Treasury squeeze on cash.

Ministers are preparing for a climbdown from the pledge made by Labour spokesmen in Opposition that free opening would be a priority in government. And big national galleries that allow free entry are warning the Government that unless more money is found they will have no option but to charge the public.

Within the next two weeks Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, will announce the results of an internal review aimed at improving access to museums and galleries and covering the question of charges. But in what appeared to be a concerted move to lower expectations, ministers made clear yesterday that, irrespective of any statements made by frontbench spokesmen in Opposition, Labour did not promise free entry to museums and galleries in its election manifesto.

Officials described a statement by Mark Fisher, the Arts Minister, in June that "we do not want anyone to be charged entry to museums and galleries" as an aspiration rather than a pledge that the Government would ensure that there would be no charging. A government source said: "It is inconceivable that the Government could provide all the money to subsidise free entry."

It is thought that Mr Smith's department would have to increase its £200 million museums budget by 20 per cent in order to scrap charges — a non-starter in today's austere climate on spending encouraged by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. Mr Brown, who today presents his first pre-Budget report to the Commons, has gone out of his way to warn ministers that an apparent improvement in the national finances does not mean that they can exceed the budgets inherited from the Tories.

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'Digging out' of foxes banned on MoD property

By Philip Webster and James Landale

HUNTS have been banned from "digging out" foxes on Ministry of Defence land, the Government announced last night.

John Spellar: all hunts have been informed

As pro and anti-hunting campaigners began to mobilise for Friday's crucial vote in the House of Commons, John Spellar, the Defence Minister, said that all hunts had been told that the Ministry as the landowner would not allow digging out of foxes on the defence estate.

The Government has upset anti-hunting campaigners by allowing existing hunts to continue on Ministry of Defence land for the time being, although it will grant no new hunting licences. Last night's move will please opponents of fox-hunting in the run-up to a debate in which they are certain to gain a massive majority on Friday. Digging out of foxes is regarded by critics as one of the most objectionable aspects of the pursuit.

Although Mike Foster's Wild Mammals (hunting with Dogs) Bill is not expected to become law because the Government is not granting extra time for it to go through, there is a growing belief among Labour MPs that hunting will be outlawed during the present Parliament.

Ministers may allow an amendment to ban hunting on a Government Bill during a later parliamentary session or they may back another private Member's Bill after they have acted to strip hereditary peers of their voting rights.

The fear of a lengthy confrontation with the Lords has discouraged the Government from granting time to Mr Foster's Bill. But it now appears to accept that a ban on hunting at some stage during the present Parliament is inevitable.

Viscount Cranborne, the Tory leader in the Lords, said yesterday that any Government legislation banning hunting was likely to face stiff opposition if it reached the Lords. "There is quite a chance that it would be rejected," he said.

He insisted that the Tories would allow a free vote on the issue and would not summon any backwoodsmen peers to block the move.

But he made clear that some peers would be prepared to fight a hunting ban even if it speeded up the Government's plans to scrap hereditary peers' voting rights.

"Some will see it as dying in a fine cause," he said.

Lord Cranborne also expressed his own opposition to any hunting ban. "It is absolutely outrageous when a majority becomes an oppressor," he said.

He warned that many ordinary law-abiding people were so angry that they felt they would be prepared to go to prison over the issue.

"There are many people who feel that way and I rather feel that way myself," he said. "People are extremely angry." The hunting lobby admits that Friday's Bill is likely to be backed by many MPs but they are keen to prevent any momentum growing for a hunt ban later this Parliament.

More than 800 hunting enthusiasts last week descended on Westminster to urge their MPs to vote against Mr Foster's Bill.

In one of the largest mass lobbies in recent years, the Commons was flooded with countryfolk arguing that the move would harm the environment and cut thousands of jobs.

The demonstration was organised by the Countryside Alliance, a coalition of pro-hunting groups, which also launched an advertising campaign on 500 poster sites across London.

The poster, bearing the slogan: "The Countryside says NO to Foster's Bill", showed the 120,000 people who attended the Countryside Rally in Hyde Park on 10 July.

Pamela Morton, a spokesman for the Countryside Alliance, said: "The case for hunting is very persuasive when MPs and members of the public actually meet the ordinary people who support hunting."

It gets the debate beyond old stereotypes of what hunting is about."

ERIK JOHANSEN/REUTERS

Norway's annual gift to Britain, a Christmas tree for Trafalgar Square, is lifted from woods near Oslo after London's Lord Mayor, Ronald Raymond-Cox, helped to fell it

Broadcasting watchdog's new code aims to protect privacy

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

THE Broadcasting Complaints Commission yesterday outlined a new code of behaviour for broadcasters that will set strict limits to invasion of privacy and prevent interviewees being misled by programme makers.

Lady Howe, chairman of the commission, said that as the commission moved to finalise its code "the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, has highlighted the issue [privacy] in a very sharp form". The chairman said the tragedy had led to strong calls for even tigher controls on the media with a recent opinion poll suggesting that nine out of 10 people support the idea of a privacy law.

Lady Howe said the implementation of the new code on fairness and privacy, which has statutory backing, was the best way to balance two competing interests — the right to know and the right not to have privacy invaded without good reason.

In an approach also being taken by the Press Complaints Commission, the regulatory body for the newspaper industry, the broadcasting code requires that any infringement of privacy has to be justified by "an overriding public interest in disclosure of the information". The sort of things the commission has in mind range from detecting crime and disreputable behaviour, to exposing misleading claims, to publicising significant incompetence in public office.

Some of the code's most detailed provisions are designed to make sure that contributors are dealt with fairly. Anyone asked to make a significant contribution to a programme should be told what it is about, why they have been contacted, what the general area of questioning will be and whether their contribution is going to be edited.

The commission made it clear yesterday that its code, which comes into effect on January 1, must be reflected in the codes or guidelines of each broadcaster or regulatory body, such as the BBC and the Independent Television Commission.

☐ The chairman of the Press Complaints Commission said yesterday that incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into British law would lead to an ineffective privacy law that would erode press freedom. Lord Wakeham, speaking during the committee stage of the Human Rights Bill, told the House of Lords: "Such a law could never be as effective as self-regulation in safeguarding the rights of individuals."

Councils seeking to outlaw 'Watercards'

By Michael Horsnell

LEGAL action to outlaw a new electronic smartcard method for people to pay their water bills was launched in the High Court yesterday after claims that the system leads to illegal disconnections and endangers public health.

Six local authorities, supported by 31 more, are challenging Ian Byatt, the director of water services, and two water companies over the controversial system designed for poorer households. The authorities claimed that the devices fitted by Severn Trent and North West Water are illegal because they allow the companies to cut off supplies to the most vulnerable without referring them to the courts as required by the 1991 Water Industry Act.

In Birmingham this year 1,773 households with the the pre-payment devices have been disconnected but only six have been processed through the county courts.

The six authorities — Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham city councils, Lancashire County Council, and Tameside and Oldham borough councils — are seeking judicial review in a move to ban the budget payment "Watercard" system, which allows householders to pay for water as they use it by inserting a card into a control box.

IN BRIEF

Courts to listen to victims on sentences

Views on sentencing expressed by victims of crime will be passed to the Court of Appeal under reforms announced by the Home Secretary yesterday. Jack Straw outlined measures to improve the consistency of sentencing by the courts, including a new advisory panel which will take account of the views of victims through organisations such as Victim Support.

The Court of Appeal will also be placed under a new statutory duty to issue sentencing guidelines where appropriate.

No inquest

No fatal accident inquiry, Scotland's equivalent to an inquest, will be held into the death of Gordon McMaster, the Labour MP who committed suicide in July, it was announced yesterday. The decision had been taken after consultation with the dead man's family.

Church gifts

The Church of England is considering plans to repay student loans taken out by its newly ordained priests. While dioceses refuse to ordain men and women with debts, student loans are not considered by the Church an "impediment to ordination".

Photograph, page 26

Murder charge

Human remains found on a golf course in Stockport last month were those of Jamie Lavis, 8, police disclosed yesterday. Darren Vickers, 27, from Openshaw, Greater Manchester, who has already been charged with the boy's abduction, now faces a murder charge.

Green peace

Office plants can help to banish workplace stress, researchers at the University of Surrey claim. In a nine-month study the team found that staff surrounded by greenery showed significantly lower levels of stress than those surrounded by office equipment.

Homes go-slow

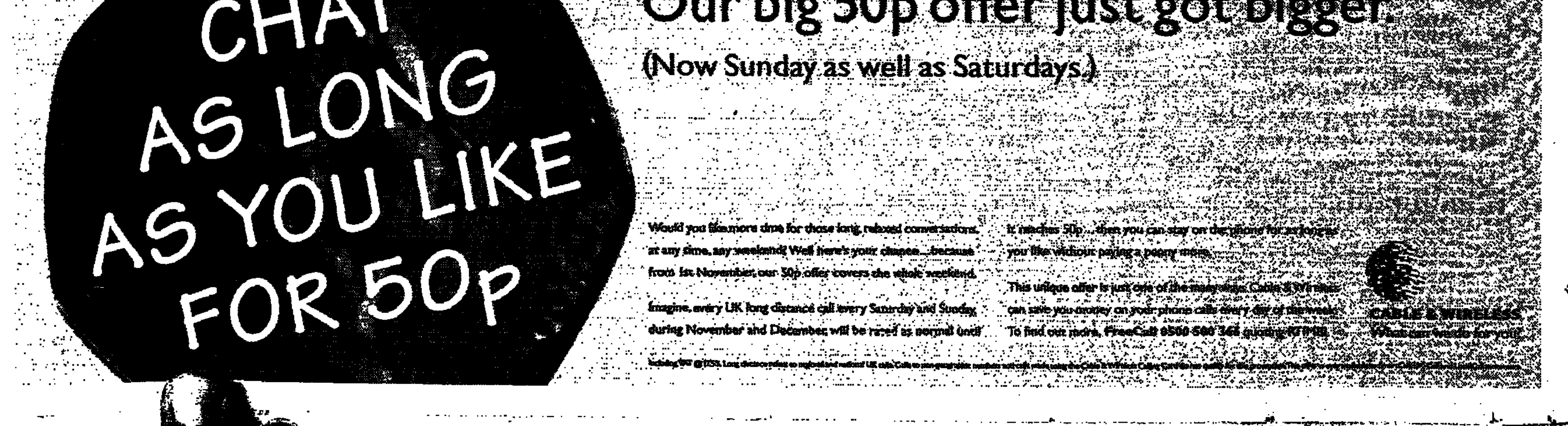
The growth in house prices has slowed to a 16-month low, according to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Only 30 per cent of surveyors questioned reported rising prices, the lowest number since August last year. Average prices rose 1 per cent in the last quarter.

Churchill sale

A black Austin 10, formerly owned by Winston Churchill, sold for £66,400 at a car auction at Sotheby's in London, 11 times the estimate. The 1938 car, sold by Churchill in 1950, was bought by an unnamed Swiss historical foundation, which plans to put it on show.

Mr X identified

A man who lost his memory was named yesterday by one of his four wives. Mr X, who suffered amnesia after being robbed, was told of his identity after his photograph was recognised by dozens of people. Cardiff police confirmed he is Barry Robinson, 47, of Leeds.



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IN BRIEF

Courts to listen to victims on sentences

No inquest

Church gifts

BBC backs down in fight over US rights

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

THE BBC yesterday made a costly High Court climbdown over a long-running dispute over who should profit from the American rights to the television detective series *Dalziel & Pascoe*.

The corporation, and its commercial arm BBC Worldwide, yesterday agreed to pay Portobello Pictures, co-producers of the series £500,000 and the legal costs of both sides which are likely to total around £250,000.

Portbello took the action for alleged breach of contract and misrepresentation following attempts by the BBC, according to Portbello "to avoid paying shares of revenue from the US broadcaster A & E Network to which Portbello claimed legal entitlement."

Warren Clarke and Colin Buchanan

After a dispute which has run for more than 17 months the BBC agreed to settle and pay the costs of both sides late on Friday night in advance of yesterday's schedule hearing. Eric Abraham, managing director of Portobello, and a former BBC *Panorama* producer, said yesterday: "It is a matter of great regret that a publicly funded body like the BBC should waste hundreds of thousands of pounds in legal fees alone trying to evade its contractual obligations."

It is believed that the contracts between Portbello and the BBC specify an actual percentage of revenues from foreign sales that the independent production company should have gone to it as of right.

The BBC claims privately that some of the clauses involved were capable of different interpretation. BBC Worldwide confirmed last night that a settlement had been reached that was "lower than the original claim". The corporation said it did not accept remarks made by Mr Abraham and added that, as a publicly funded and publicly accountable broadcaster, "the BBC had a duty to the licence-fee payer to ensure that co-production funds and related financial matters are properly administered".

Mr Abraham said yesterday that dozens of BBC employees, including the two senior figures Will Wyatt and Alan Yentob, "were fully aware of the litigation and the BBC's efforts to deprive Portobello of a very sustantial amount of income".

The Portobello managing director also alleged yesterday he had been told that outside lawyers had advised the BBC more than 17 months ago that it had no option but to meet Portobello's claim.

The second series of *Dalziel & Pascoe*, based on the novels of crime writer Reginald Hill got an audience of more than 10 million — a 47 per cent share of the audience. Warren Clarke plays Dalziel, and Colin Buchanan his sidekick, Pascoe. A third series is nearly finished shooting.

After that Mr Abraham who says he owns the *Dalziel & Pascoe* rights is making it clear he would like to hear from other broadcasters.

☐ Bob Quinn, a member of the Dublin government-appointed group that oversees operations at Ireland's RTE TV and radio network, has temporarily stepped down, in protest at the level of pre-Christmas toy advertising directed at children.

SASA KRALJ/AP

Victoria Spencer, right, arriving at the Cape Town Supreme Court yesterday with her friend Chantelle Collopy

Earl Spencer accused of affairs

Continued from page 1

two British nationals. Jeremy Posnansky, a British family law expert, told the court that it was likely that the Earl's adultery would have a bearing on the outcome of a divorce settlement in Britain.

Lady Spencer's lawyers argued that because the bulk of his assets are in Britain, the divorce hearing should be held in London.

They also pointed out that the couple had only intended moving to Cape Town for a few years and that their young daughters had been registered for British public schools.

As well as disputing the divison of assets, the couple are suing for custody of their children.

The wife of a Cape Town business man, Chantelle Collopy, with whom the Earl had an affair, is expected to be a key witness and to give evidence against him. Lady Spencer arrived in court with Mrs Collopy, who occasionally patted her comfortingly on the arm.

A spokesperson for him said later: "These are allegations that have been made by Lady Spencer's counsel and are strenuously denied by Lord Spencer, who will be pursuing them later in the hearing."

His lawyers are expected to argue that British law can be applied in South Africa and therefore the case can be heard in South Africa.

Since the estranged couple, who married in 1989, moved to South Africa over a year ago to escape media attention, they have mostly lived apart.

Earl Spencer has been linked to a string of beautiful women, the latest being Josie Boraine, a South African model. Although there have been reports that the couple recently split they were seen together at a weekend charity function in Cape Town.

His estranged wife, Victoria, has been linked to a 26-year-old South Africa pharmacist whom she is said to have met at her local shopping centre in Cape Town.

The hearing continues today and is expected to run for at least one week.

Lady Spencer appeared at the Cape Town court wearing a beige dress suit and no make-up, and she appeared tired.

By contrast Earl Spencer, who was wearing a dark suit, appeared confident and chatted amicably with his lawyers before the hearing.

But when questioned about the divorce proceedings by reporters outside the court he refused to make any comment.

Rape victim in Owen Oyston trial 'was not so innocent'

By Lin Jenkins

OWEN OYSTON, the millionaire chairman of Blackpool Football Club, yesterday claimed the teenager he was convicted of raping was not the innocent dependent and vulnerable person described at the trial.

In urging three Court of Appeal judges to quash his convictions, lawyers for Mr Oyston claimed she was a liar who, far from having no boyfriends at the time, had an affair in Crete and wrote a sexually explicit letter to the man, it was alleged.

Oyston, 64, yesterday urged Lord Justice Phillips, Mr Justice Jowitt and Mr Justice Moses to quash his conviction for rape and indecent assault of the schoolgirl model. Anthony Scrivener, QC, said they had fresh evidence which could have destroyed her credibility in the eyes of the jury during the 18-day trial in Liverpool in May last year.

Elizabeth Underwood, her housekeeper at the home run for the agency models, says she recalled the girl, referred to as JH, bragging about a visit to a castle — the description she used for Oyston's country home, Cloughton Hall near Lancaster.

"She recalls JH describing in excited terms going up to the castle and having a look around. She was jubilant. The visit was on a previous day and she was far from being distressed," he said.

Ms Underwood had said she could hear her "bragging" although she made no mention of Oyston's name. Oyston, who is serving six years, was brought from Wymott jail in Lancashire to the Court of Appeal in London. He glanced occasionally at his wife, Vicki, who has fought to clear his name and has taken over as chairman of the football club.

Mr Scrivener said of the new evidence: "If one puts all the points together it is a different case from that presented at the trial."

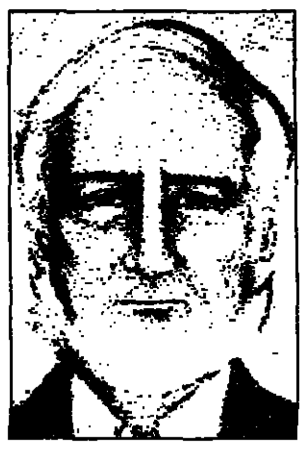
A letter written in May 1992 to Jerome O'Malley, with whom she had ad a fling while on holiday in Crete, was sexually explicit. She wrote: "I hope you have some energy left because if you have by the time I have finished with you you'll not have because I will stay sober this time."

While it has never been established when the rape occurred, if it was before May, the letter suggested she had lied when saying it took a year to get over it, Mr Scrivener said. The victim had said: "I spent a year of my life trying to forget what happened. I hate everybody, I hate having sex. I started to hurt myself."

Mr Scrivener said the letter painted a different picture. She had denied having any boyfriends at that time. He also questioned the view that she was "young, dependent and vulnerable," under the control of Peter Martin at the agency, who is now serving 20 years for sexual crimes.

Helen Grindrod, QC, for the Crown, said JH was in effect an abused youngster, already indecently assaulted and probably raped by her boss Martin at the time of the incident. She was taken after midnight 50 miles to Oyston's home, and made to have oral sex with him in the car. "In front was her boss who had been abusing her but seeking to persuade her it is normal."

The hearing continues.



Owen Oyston: he was jailed for six years

Gracia Morton

Hunt for missing mother

By Stewart Tendler

FEARS are growing for the safety of a wealthy mother who vanished 13 days ago.

Gracia Morton, 40, of Kensington, West London, vanished after taking her four-year-old daughter to school in Notting Hill and visiting her estranged husband, an architect, who lives near by. Her car was left there.

Her family said her disappearance was completely out of character. Her daughter has been staying with her father and an aunt.

Mrs Morton, who grew up in Argentina, has two passports. Scotland Yard has made checks on airports.

Husband 'killed wife after business failed'

By Simon de Bruxelles

A PROPERTY developer whose business had collapsed killed his estranged partner as they packed after being forced out of their home, a court was told yesterday.

Susan Faux, a 46-year-old mother-of-three who had changed her surname to that of her common-law husband, was hit 17 times with a hammer in her bedroom at Thimble Hall in Hexworthy, Devon.

William Faux, 48, who denies murder, was a property tycoon who had fallen victim to the 1990s recession. Exeter Crown Court was told yesterday that he had lost his companies and the family home, and that his partner had left him after a series of rows. The couple had been together for 29 years, although they were not married.

David Lane, QC, for the prosecution, said that the murder happened as they were packing up their belongings before leaving the £300,000 house on Dartmoor. Faux brought some jumpers into the bedroom and left them "in an untidy state". Mr Lane said: "She became annoyed and hit him in the face with a coat-hanger."

Faux allegedly pulled a hammer from a shelf and hit his wife twice over the head. In the struggle she bit his finger but he came back into the bedroom and struck her over the head repeatedly.

Mr Lane said that Faux, who had already taken some amphetamines, then took some more pills and a carton of weedkiller that he had bought earlier and went off with the intention of killing himself. The couple's youngster daughter returned home some hours later and found her mother's body on the bedroom floor with the hammer underneath her. Police were called and Faux was arrested hiding in a shed.

Mr Lane said: "He became prosperous through his own hard work and efforts. But in the early 1990s the recession hit him hard. His companies went into bankruptcy. People were owed money and court orders ordered him to sell Thimble Hall to recoup some of their money. In the last 12 months leading up to the incident he had been taking amphetamines and there had been constant rows. By April 7 she could take it no more. Seventeen days before she was killed she left home to live somewhere else."

Mr Lane said that, four days before the killing, one of Faux's daughters had noticed a basket in her father's car with some of her mother's clothes in it, along with a hammer. Mr Lane said she had asked her father what it was for and he had replied: "If I find your mother with another man, it might be a big man, and I might have to tap it on the big man's head just to shut him up so I can talk to your mother."

He said he would not be able to handle his wife with someone else and would "do her in and then kill myself". Mr Lane said Faux was constantly making threats to his daughters about killing his wife and committing suicide. He said: "It takes a brave man to kill himself. I have nothing else to live for."

After the killing Faux allegedly changed his bloodstained shirt, washed himself, locked up the house and took the pills and weedkiller into a field to the shed. Mr Lane said Faux left a suicide note addressed to his daughters.

Faux allegedly told police in interviews: "She had put up a hell of a fight. It's not easy to kill someone."

The trial continues.

Friends recall a 'good' old Kray

Damian Whitworth on a benefit night in aid of getting out of jail

THE top-of-the-range Mercedes and Bentleys parked outside would give any passer-by the impression of a typical well-heeled crowd at the Ridge golf club in Kent, enjoying a big night out. In fact it was the Mr Bigs' night out.

Friends, and those who might be called colleagues, of Charlie Kray gathered at the country club outside Maidstone for a benefit night for the elder brother of Ronnie and Reggie on Sunday night.

The least famous of the East End underworld trio was sentenced to 12 years last year for masterminding a £39 million cocaine deal. At 71, he faces the possibility of ending his days in jail and the old gang are rallying round to raise money for his appeal.

More than 200 guests stumped up £100 a head for a ticket, and were then invited to make further donations inside. Brick walls disguised as men dissuaded those without a ticket from crossing the threshold. Grasses inside said that the buffet was delicious, the cabaret was performed by the Rockin' Berries and there was dancing into the early hours.

There was also a lot of hard talk in dark corners followed by solid hand shaking. Some shy guests slipped in and out through the back door.

But these days there are plenty of survivors from the Kray heyday who wouldn't dream of skulking in the shadows. "Mad" Frankie Fraser and Tony Lambrianu rubbed shoulders with the younger bloods.

Mr Lambrianu, who organised the bash, declared it a success. "Charlie has lots of friends, many of whom do not believe that he was involved with smuggling cocaine," he said.

"This is a chance to get together and raise some money for his appeal and have a good night out at the same time. Charlie is an old man, and he got a long sentence for a crime he did not do. There is a good chance at his age he will finish his life inside.

"We want to get together the money to get him out."

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Mother stops IRA from using name of Bobby Sands

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER, *CHIEF IRELAND* CORRESPONDENT

THE elderly mother of the hunger-striker Bobby Sands has intervened to help prevent the rift between the IRA and Sinn Fein from deepening, republican sources said yesterday.

Rosaleen Sands, 73, is believed to have warned her daughter Bernie against using the family's potent name to promote the dissidents' cause. "The mother was very adamant her son's name not be used," said one well-placed source.

Bobby Sands, who died in the Maze prison in 1981 after 66 days without food, is regarded by some as an IRA "martyr", and criticism of Sinn Fein's peace strategy from his youngest sister would have seriously embarrassed Gerry Adams.

Bernie Sands is one of several senior activists who recently quit the movement.

Bobby Sands: regarded by some as a martyr

She was tipped to become the group's spokeswoman, but her anticipated appearance on a New York republican radio station recently failed to happen.

Ms Sands refused to talk to *The Times* when approached in the printing and T-shirt shop she runs in Dundalk, County Louth. However she told New York's *Irish Voice* newspaper last week that "we as a family took a decision not to talk to the media many years ago . . . I have a business here to run and I want to get on with my business and I have nothing to say."

Without someone of Ms Sands's stature at their helm, the dissidents stand little chance of attracting much more support at this stage. On Sunday night Sinn Fein staged a huge, unprecedented rally in Belfast's Europa Hotel designed to dispel the reports of grassroots unhappiness.

The hotel was the target of numerous IRA attacks during the Troubles. On this occasion 1,000 packed into the chandeliered grand ballroom for an event almost as smooth as one of New Labour's, except for the burly bodyguards and the *Socialist Worker* salesman in the lobby. There was a a plea for pace from Sinn Fein Youth and ovations for Mr Adams and Martin McGuinness.

Ernest Jones, head teacher of Llangurig Primary School, who welcomed the Queen Mother's help towards buying two computers

Queen Mother repays 80-year-old debt

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

IT WAS 80 years ago and in the midst of war, but Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has never forgotten the affection her late husband felt for the Welsh village where he recuperated from tuberculosis.

In a gesture that has touched villagers, the Queen Mother has helped to buy two computers for the 29 pupils who attend their tiny primary school. It was in September 1917 that the 21-year-old Duke of York, later to become King George VI, arrived in Llangurig in Mid-Wales. On the advice of doctors he spent three weeks recuperating in the country air after suffering from TB. His stay at Clochfain Hall is recorded in the parish church. It was that reminder of the village's royal connection that prompted David Vaughan, head of governors at Llangurig Primary School, to write to the Queen Mother.

The school had already raised some money and was sent a cheque to make up the bulk of the £3,000. Ernest Jones, the school's head teacher, said: "The Queen Mother's donation has allowed a small rural school to get this latest equipment, the same as any school in large cities."

The Queen Mother, then Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, married the Duke in 1923 six years after his Welsh sojourn, never expecting he would become king.

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Disclosure is best reply to cash question

BY PETER RIDDELL

THE recent discussion of party funding has been muddled and confused, in hasty response to the Ecclestone affair. The Neill (formerly the Nolan) committee has been asked to come up with a new blueprint, even though this has confounded most other western democracies. Just as with electoral systems, there is no ideal method of financing political parties. It all depends on the circumstances and what type of party system you want.

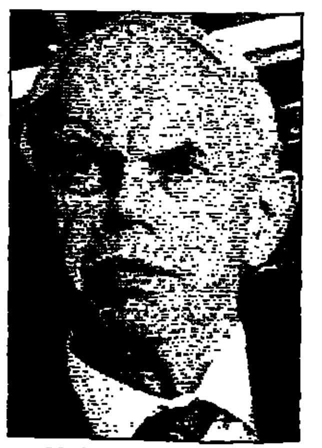
Sir Patrick Neill's committee, which meets on Thursday for its first official canter around the course, has first to define the nature of the problem. Is our present system unfair because one party, the Tories, has traditionally been able to raise more money than Labour and been able to outspend it during campaigns? Or is the real problem that secrecy about donations has produced suspicions of influence peddling and favours in exchange for donations? The solutions are different.

My view is that the difficulties are more to do with disclosure than with inequalities in fund-raising and spending. Once a party raises a certain minimum amount, as Labour has in the past two elections, there is little evidence that additional sums make any difference to the outcome. It may be a comforting myth for Labour to believe that they were unfairly robbed of victory in 1992 by a burst of Tory spending. But that is nonsense. Our elections are cheap by international standards, and there are tight constraints on how much parties can spend. They are banned from buying radio and television time, which absorbs tens of millions of dollars in America. This is by far the most important constraint on party funding in Britain. Long may it continue.

The significant change in recent years has been the decline in traditional institutional sources of funding. Public companies have cut their political donations sharply in real terms, partly because they want to be less identified with any single party. The Blair leadership has wanted to reduce Labour's reliance on the unions, which anyway have less money to spend. Labour has boosted its individual membership sharply, but the big new source of funds, as with the Tories, has been wealthy individuals. Some are philantropists backing left or right causes over the years. In other cases, there are worries about large donations by people who have business with government. There is a big difference between the right to privacy of someone giving a small amount and the position of someone giving a sum which is of big sigificance for the recipient, as with Bernie Ecclestone's £1 million.

If the main problem is one of ethics rather than disparities in spending, the solution should be greater disclosure rather than new limits. Jack Straw is bringing in a bill this session banning foreign donations and requiring the disclosure of donors of above £5,000. This should cover amounts as well. There are snags enough here, covering front organisations and defining what is a foreigner. Is it a non-resident or a non-citizen?

Once you get to discussing limits on the size of individual donations and limits on overall national spending, there are a whole series of problems over evasion — the vast "soft money" loophole in America and help in kind by unions — as well as judging what is the right level of spending. A consensus is likely to be impossible here, let alone on the more dubious proposition of extending existing state funding. The Neill committee should concentrate on disclosure.



Sir Patrick: asked to provide a blueprint

Sport chiefs urge tobacco rethink

BY JILL SHERMAN, *CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT*

THE Prime Minister will today come under pressure to extend Formula One's exemption from the tobacco sponsorship ban to all sports.

Tony Blair is meeting representatives from sports including snooker, darts, cricket and rugby who have been incensed by his decision to make Formula One a special case.

The meeting at Downing Street coincides with signs that the Government is preparing to compromise over its position on Formula One, by agreeing to an exemption limited to seven years at the EU council meeting on December 4. Government sources concede that if other countries refuse to agree to this, a fall-back position would be to provide the same time-limited guarantee for all sports.

But Formula One is also stepping up its own campaign to ensure that the Government keeps to an indefinite exemption. Representatives of the sport are meeting government and EU officials.

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Lady and the truants who got clean away

David Charter reports on lives at a crossroads as squeegee boys run into the minister who is introducing a £10m plan for school drop-outs

A GANG of truants were cleaning car windscreens at a traffic lights when they decided that a chauffeur-driven limousine looked like a good prospect. They were wrong.

As the young boys set to work with their bucket and water, a rear window rolled down and the strong voice of Baroness Blackstone said: "I am the Minister for Education and Employment. Why aren't you at school?"

Lady Blackstone, who has special responsibility for disaffected youth and is regarded as the Government's leading educational theorist, thought that the boys were a good prospect for reform. But she was wrong, too. There was a "streetwise" response from one child, followed by a conversation that was cut short by the honking of drivers' horns when the lights changed.

The story of young lives at a crossroads was told by the minister yesterday at the introduction of the £10 million new-start scheme to "bring young people who have rejected education back into the fold". It includes 17 projects to develop monitoring, guidance and teaching for school drop-outs aged 14 to 17, and a "second chance school" in Leeds for unqualified young adults to try again on academic or vocational courses.

Her personal attempt to put policy into practice came when a trio of "squeegee merchants" pounced on the ministerial Vauxhall Vectra at traffic lights on Holloway Road, North London. Lady Blackstone, Education Minister in the Lords, said: "My guess is that the three were primary school children. The youngest looked about ten and the other two looked 11 to 13. I suddenly thought, it is 11.30am."

She wound down her window before her driver had a chance to shoo the young beggars. One boy's initial argument that they were on their way to school would not wash with the former Master of Birkbeck College.

"I got the most wonderful stories in an Irish accent, that his mother was penniless and he had to go out to work in the day in order for his family to eat," she said. "I thought he ought to have gone into politics straight away with a response like that. He was very articulate and streetwise, but clearly someone who, if he went back to school, was going to have a lot to offer.

"I wanted to talk to them for a bit longer, but there was a queue of cars behind hooting, who wanted to go on, and we just had to leave." Two years ago, Jack Straw, then Shadow Home Secretary, criticised "the squeegee merchants who wait at large road junctions" when he spoke of a need to "reclaim the streets for law-abiding citizens".

Teaching unions said that the minister's experience showed the nature of the problem facing schools and colleges in motivating some pupils. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "It is a shame more ministers don't wind down their windows and see what is going on. She was lucky she received only oral invective. A teacher might have had the bucket of water as well."

Lady Blackstone, 55, has a PhD from the London School of Economics and was a director of education in the Inner London Education Auhtority. She was created a life peer in 1987, and has two grown-up children.

Her personal approach with the truants may have worked in the long run. There was not a squeegee in sight yesterday along the Holloway Road.

ASHLEY COOMBES

Baroness Blackstone yesterday. "There was a queue of cars hooting," she said

Student's killing heightens fears

By Russell Jenkins

STUDENTS spoke yesterday of their fear of rising violence around campuses in Manchester, after a Taiwanese man was stabbed to death by two muggers.

They ambushed the 30-year-old student in Whitworth Park about 10pm on Saturday. The man lost a huge amount of blood and died in hospital. Police are looking for a number of people in connection with the attack.

There has been an alarming rise in attacks on young people in the city centre and in the area of Manchester University and the Manchester Metropolitan University. There are more than 30,000 students in the city, and police are concerned that they appear an attractive target to muggers.

Andrew Ward, editor of a student newspaper, said: "Students are aware of the risks, but they are out and about in relatively dangerous areas. The park is in the heart of the university area. It is well-known for problems. It backs on to dodgy areas."

Headmaster took girl, 15, home to bed

By A Correspondent

A HEADMASTER who took a 15-year-old pupil to bed after inviting her to his home told a court that he had succumbed to temptation after 26 years of coping with schoolgirl crushes.

Alan Rainbow, a 47-year-old bachelor, was sacked as head of a comprehensive school in South Wales after the girl confided in a friend, who then told her mother. Yesterday he admitted sexual assault and was jailed for 15 months.

Cardiff Crown Court was told that the girl telephoned and asked to see him. Keith Thomas, for the prosecution, said: "Rainbow picked her up in his car and dropped her off at the end of his street. He then went into his house, leaving the door open behind him. The girl followed him in a few minutes later.

"He offered her a cup of tea before he began to kiss her on the lips. Rainbow asked her if she wanted to come upstairs. She agreed and they went into the bedroom."

Mr Thomas said that Rainbow and the girl undressed and climbed into bed. They kissed and cuddled and the girl performed a sexual act on him, then left.

Stephen Hopkins, for Rainbow, said: "Rainbow had already picked up the vibrations from the girl, who had indicated she had a crush on him. Many teachers, men and women, pick up such indications from their pupils every day. She had also indicated to him that she was experienced in sexual matters. He is basically a decent, highly professional man who has had one serious lapse. He now stands before the court with his head bowed in shame."

Rainbow, of Cwmbran, pleaded guilty to sexual assault because the girl was under the age of consent. He said: "For 26 years I have coped with girls with crushes on me but this one went disastrously wrong. I have always taught my pupils that if you make a mistake you put your hand up and take the consequences. I'm willing to stand by that principle now."

Judge Michael Burr told him: "This girl was vulnerable and you were a senior teacher. You fell into temptation and you fell a long way. Your career is now, sadly, in ruins."

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The nation's assets are brought to book

The original *Domesday Book* was compiled in 1086 by panels of commissioners working for William the Conqueror. They encountered great resentment when they drew up detailed accounts of the estates of the King and his tenants in chief. From these, the King's clerks drew up a summary, known as the *Domesday Book*. The primary purpose was not unlike today — to maximise tax revenues.

The book actually consists of two volumes. Volume I (Great Domesday) contains the final summarised record of all the counties surveyed *except* Essex. Norfolk and Suffolk. For these three, the full return is preserved in Volume II (Little Domesday). Four northern counties, London and Winchester were left out. Every village had to reply to questions about the identity of landholders, the size and use of land, the number and status of workers in the fields, and the value of the land.

GILL ALLEN

National collection: Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, with a copy of the register yesterday

FOREIGN OFFICE

The Foreign Office is one of the Government's largest landlords: with 1,441 houses and residences abroad, its property holdings run into billions of pounds, although no total figure is given (Michael Binyon writes).

The Government's "Domesday Book" notes that the Foreign Office owns a total of 136 embassy offices, 157 ambassadorial residences and 1,054 houses and flats for other diplomats. It also owns a further 94 properties such as tennis courts, garages, guard rooms and stores. There are particularly valuable properties in Paris, Washington and New York.

Thre reports said that the great majority of the heritage assets were held in 26 major posts "where the buildings are of exceptional historic and architectural interest.". These include residences in Paris, Washington, Vienna, Rome, Tokyo, Istanbul, Moscow, Pretoria, Cairo and Buenos Aires, capitals where Britain acquired or was donated property when it was a globally dominant political and economic power.

Anticipating pressure to sell some of the pictures and antiques housed in these buildings, the report adds: "Antique furniture complements the architecture and interiors and contributes to preserving the high heritage standard of the buildings and to their representational quality."

It notes that each antique worth more than £5,000 has been recorded, with photographs, descriptions and valuations. It says that "comparatively few" antiques exist at the remaining posts. The Foreign Office will be checking the valuable item inventories of these posts to see whether further items need to be valued and added to the antiques inventory.

The Foreign Office notes that many of the most valuable properties in city centres, such as the magnificent site in Tokyo have been given to Britain at peppercorn rent or as gifts with restricted covenants. These cannot be sold or disposed of without Britain incurring substantial penalties.

Both the Foreign Office and the British Council have access to an extensive art collection. The Foreign Office has an inventory of the paintings and works on loan from the Government Art Collection, which is responsible for their maintenance. The British Council's own art collection, assembled at a cost of £2.1 million, is now estimated to be worth £25.25 million.

The council's holdings, including land, property, furniture and vehicles, come to more than £100 million.

The report also lists all Foreign Office cars (850), light vehicles (220), heavy commercial vehicles (60). It notes drily that it has "sufficient items of office equipment and furniture" and computers which are in constant need of updating and replacement. "Providing our many offices with modern information technology is akin to painting the Forth Bridge."

COURTS

Judges' lodgings, used by *circuit judges*, occupy nearly 10,000 square metres of property among the "considerable estate" owned by the Court Service (Frances Gibb writes). The largest, at Salford, near Manchester, covers 1,697 sq m. The smallest, at Reading, is 204 sq m. For security reasons, the register excludes addresses. Also excluded are "non-operational antiques" such as works of art, although *these may be listed on the* Court Service asset register in future.

TRANSPORT

Old English long-horned *cattle are listed in John* Prescott's inventory for his "superministry" of transport, environment and the regions (Arthur Leathley writes). The 165 cattle are registered under £91,000 worth of breeding stock owned by English Nature, which advises on conservation. London Transport, the most valuable nationalised industry within the department, is valued at £7.48 billion — mainly tied up in London Underground, which is awaiting partial privatisation.

AGRICULTURE

The Ministry of Agriculture has only one combine harvester but two lawnmowers among its estimated £350 million of assets. A ministry famous for generating red tape also manages apparently to get by with just 40 telephone systems. Eighty five per cent of the assets consist of land and buildings, including 18 "buffer depots" that once held emergency food stockpiles for wartime use. All are now up for sale. The *ministry also has 24 farms* and plots of agricultural land.

DSS

The Department of Social Security's assets are dominated by those of the Benefits Agency, the largest of its five departmental agencies (Mark Henderson writes). The DSS has the freehold or historic leasehold to 250 buildings, most of which are used as Benefits Agency offices or jobcentres. The department owns 59,500 computers and 24,400 printers, more than half of which belong to the Benefits Agency. It owns 2,720 cars (2,207 used by the Benefits Agency) and 133 vans (119 with the Benefits Agency).

NHS

The National Health Service owns *some of the most expensive proper*ties in Britain, with large sites in the centre of almost every city and big town in the country (Ian Murray writes). The NHS efficiency task force, set up in June, has already identified 700 properties worth a total of £1.2 billion that it wants to sell. In East London the land owned by St Bartholemew's Hospital and the Royal London Hospital is worth £29.6 million, and the Guy's and St Thomas's sites are estimated to be worth £32 million.

DTI

Investment in aircraft projects has failed to reap dividends, according to the inventory at the Department of Trade and Industry (Kevin Eason writes). The latest family of Airbus airliners has cost the Government almost £700 million in grants. Levies received on the A320 series amounts to £250 million but on the advanced A330/340 aircraft, the return has been nil for investment of £447 million. Grants for the Westland EH101 helicopter were £60 million, but nothing has so far been paid back to the Government.

SCOTLAND

The Scottish Office owns 34 offices and homes, ranging from 28,000 square metres at Victoria Quay in Edinburgh to a wooden hut in Portree (Nicholas Wood writes). It possesses 19 prisons and 174 vehicles, including one minibus. It also maintains 90 estates, mostly in the Highlands, although these are being sold off to tenants. Historic Scotland, a government agency, looks after 330 ancient monuments using 81 vehicles and nine boats. Assets include eight castles and 79 gift shops and cafés in prime tourist spots.

CULTURE

CHRIS SMITH presides over a treasure trove of historic buildings, national landmarks and works of art (Nicholas Wood writes).

Jewels in the crown *include* 30 "non-departmental public bodies" such as the National Gallery, over which the Culture Secretary has only limited powers, the *Government* Art Collection, the Royal Parks Agency and the BBC.

The department, which admits to a modest 4.75-acre landholding north of St Pancras Station, also owns five famous heritage assets: Trafalgar Square, Apsley House, part of Osborne House, Marble Arch and Wellington Arch. In addition, *Mr Smith* is responsible for keeping the pigeons off 58 statues *across the capital*.

But amid the Leonardos and van Goghs, Mr Smith has also some more plebeian duties. The Historic Royal Palaces Agency — responsible for the upkeep of such landmarks as the Tower of London — boasts three leaf sweepers, one refuse sweeper and three battery cars.

Presumably rather more machinery is needed to tend the department's rolling acres, which include Regent's Park, Primrose Hill, St James's Park, Green Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Greenwich Park, Bushy Park, Richmond Park and Horse Guards Parade.

The British Museum has fixed assets worth £391 million, the Wallace Collection £21 million, the Imperial War Museum £47 millio), and the National Gallery £201 million.

Such riches overshadow the mundane assets of arts, tourism and sports bodies. But the BBC puts in a decent show with fixed assets of £630 million, with another £126 million for the World Service. In the BBC's case, land and buildings are its main source of wealth.

DEFENCE

THE Ministry of Defence has its own "Fat Controller" in charge of more than 800 locomotives and assorted rolling stock to transport tanks and other armoured vehicles. (Michael Evans writes).

In a long list of plant and machinery belonging to the Army's Quartermaster General, the register discloses that the MoD owns 847 "rail vehicles". The man in charge of the rail stock, the MoD said, is Colonel Guy Yeoman, whose proper title is head of logistic support services section two (railways).

Colonel Yeoman, equivalent to the Fat Controller of the Thomas the Tank Engine stories, is responsible for locomotives painted in navy blue and red livery which use the Channel Tunnel when tanks have to be transported to Europe.

The MoD owns a church, St George's at Biggin Hill, southeast London, which is staffed by RAF chaplains, although the famous wartime airfield nearby has been sold. Inside MoD buildings there are 709 works of art and 226 antiques.

Among the furniture is the Duke of Wellington's desk in the office of the General Officer Commanding London District in Horse Guards Parade, and the mahogany octagonal desk used by Winston Churchill when he was First Lord of the Admiralty, which is in the office of the Defence Secretary.

Only items valued at more than £500 are included. Some 505 horses are listed, 396 Challenger tanks and 19 new Challenger 2s. The register lists 1,014 main battle tanks, but this includes all armoured vehicles on a tank chassis.

Some budget holders have large shareholdings. The Commander-in-Chief Fleet has 688 preference shares worth £1 each in the Chamber of Shipping, and 50,040 shares in the British Shipping Federation.

The MoD owns 90,000 properties.

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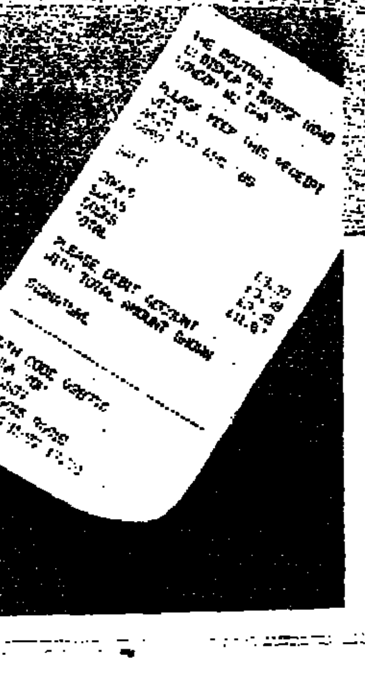

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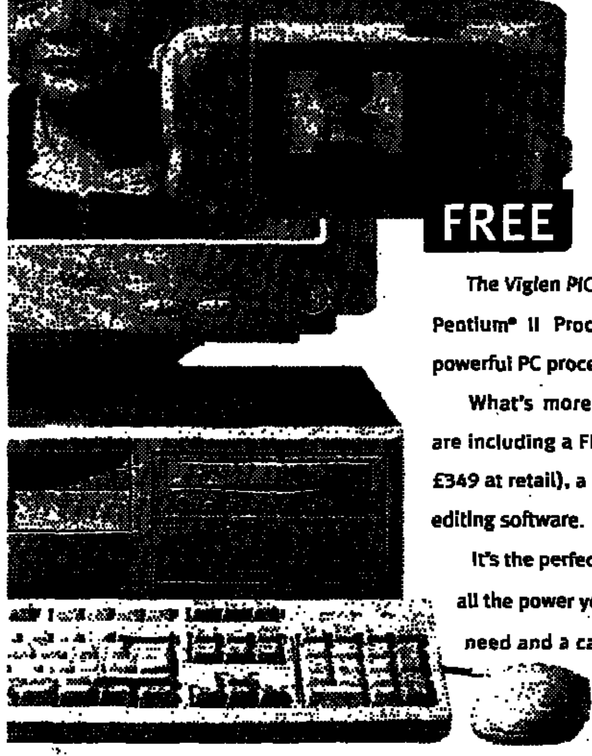

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Coroner refuses to confirm suicide

By Roger Maynard
in Sydney and
Damian Whitworth

THE rock star Michael Hutchence died from hanging, but it was still not confirmed last night that he committed suicide.

Derek Hand, the New South Wales State Coroner, disclosed that Mr Hutchence, who was found hanged in a Sydney hotel on Saturday, had died of asphyxiation, but refused to say that it was deliberate. The results of toxicology tests would not be known for some time, he said.

But police sources insisted that the singer with the Australian band INXS had killed himself and was not the victim of an auto-erotic sex game that went wrong. His naked body was found hanging from a leather belt in his suite at the Ritz Carlton.

One of the investigating detectives said: "We believe it is a straight case of suicide. Reports of a 'kinky' sex game are absolutely untrue, unhelpful and contaminate the case."

Hutchence: overheard shouting on telephone

Yesterday's disclosures came amid claims that Mr Hutchence, partner of the television presenter Paula Yates, took his life after a dispute over child custody. Australian television stations reported that a fellow guest in the Ritz Carlton heard the rock star engaged in a heated conversation with Ms Yates's former husband, Bob Geldof, shortly before he died. At one stage, he was said to have shouted down the line: "You're not married to her now."

Reports of a custody row came after comments by Ms Yates on her Sydney-bound aircraft in which she suggested to reporters that her former husband had objected to the children going to Sydney. She had telephoned Hutchence shortly before he died saying she could not join him in Australia as planned because of a continuing court case over custody.

Ms Yates, who travelled with her 16-month-old daughter by Hutchence, Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily, appeared to be distressed and highly emotional during the flight. Last night British Airways officials were investigating claims that she behaved abusively. She is alleged to have thrown a glass of champagne at an airport employee during a refuelling stop in Bangkok after a row over the use of an airport buggy.

A BA spokesman said they would establish the facts from the captain of the flight.

On her arrival at Sydney, Ms Yates was taken to the city mortuary, where she viewed the body. Sources said she sobbed uncontrollably for 20 minutes before leaving for her hotel. The funeral will take place in Sydney on Thursday.

The couple were to have been married in the new year and Ms Yates has said she would wear her wedding dress, dyed black, "with pride" at the funeral.

Mr Geldof refused to comment on her claims that he had provoked Mr Hutchence to despair. "I don't talk about these things; they are personal," he told reporters. "I know you would like me to, but I never do. I am sorry to sound like a parrot or something, but I have nothing further to say."

Police are still trying to piece together Mr Hutchence's final hours before death. Kym Wilson, an actress who visited his room in the early hours of Saturday morning, is understood to have contacted the police. Her friend Christopher Stollery, who was reported to have also gone to the hotel, has denied being there.

Libby Purves, page 18

KIERAN DOHERTY / REUTERS

Bob Geldof, who refused to comment about claims of a row with Hutchence

Life for youth in rooftop attacks

By Paul Wilkinson

A TEENAGER who twice injured people by dropping heavy objects from the top of the same multistorey car park was jailed for life yesterday.

Robert Devonshire, 18, from Normanton, Wakefield, carried out his second attack three months after being released from a young offender institution to which he had been sent after the first incident, Leeds Crown Court was told.

Sentencing him to life with a minimum recommendation of four years and three months, Brian Walsh, QC, the Recorder of Leeds, said that it was "miraculous" that his second victim, Bernard Atkinson, 64, was not badly hurt when he was hit by the 3lb piece of rubble dropped from the Riding shopping centre car park in Wakefield.

The court heard that Devonshire — described as a "loner in a world of his own" — had been sentenced to four years in 1995 after he admitted dropping a scaffolding pole on to eight-year-old Simon Teece.

Drugs can fail to treat depression

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

MICHAEL HUTCHENCE had been prescribed Prozac to treat depression. Although it appears to have failed to relieve his symptoms, it is effective in at least 60 per cent of cases.

It is not clear whether Mr Hutchence had been taking Prozac long enough for his condition to have improved, because, as with all antidepressant drugs, the effect is not immediate. His father is said to have noticed that he seemed unusually troubled.

Depression is not a disease but a group of symptoms. Not all causes of depression are equally readily treated. The easiest form to alleviate is that resulting from an affective disorder, in which the mood is disturbed by a severe depressive state often called "clinical depression".

One of the most difficult symptoms to treat, and therefore most likely to be resistant to Prozac or any other of the drugs in the same group, the 5HT re-uptake inhibitors, is the depression felt by disturbed personalities. In these cases there is often a rapid mood swing: many patients could easily be jolly before dinner but suicidal after a few drinks and an upsetting phone call.

In a case of this sort the cause of the suicide would not have been the conversation, but the patient's personality. Mr Hutchence's character enabled him to reach stardom, but his life also needed, as he said, to be fuelled "by sex, drugs and alcohol". When a mood swing is sudden, as in a patient with personality troubles, antidepressants are less effective, and there is no time for any emotional support.

Could the effect of Prozac on Mr Hutchence's libido have been a factor in his depression? One person in five who takes 5HT re-uptake inhibitors loses his libido, which can contribute to a feeling of worthlessness. If Mr Hutchence had abandoned a course of treatment, the sudden deprivation of the antidepressant could have caused anxiety and confusion.

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The test that should stop cancer errors

Researchers say new software will improve accuracy of cervical smear checks, reports

Ian Murray

ASHLEY COOMBES

Janet Clare, of the Royal London Hospital, examining a slide. Staff are looking for cells that betray potential abnormalities, top, or that are already cancerous, below

A COMPUTER test for cervical cancer could save the lives of hundreds of women every year and cut the number of incorrect smear test results.

The analysis, which is based on assessing the density of blood vessels in tissue, could also be developed to give early warning of other cancers. Work on the test has been under way for two years at Nottingham City Hospital and should be widely available in five to ten years.

The research team has concentrated on a link between the number of blood vessels and the early stages of cervical cancer. Cliff Murray, the oncologist leading the research, said yesterday that they had found it was possible to detect early signs of a malignancy just by looking at the blood vessels in a piece of tissue.

The study so far has involved examining cervical tissue taken from biopsies or hysterectomies from 70 women, who had been recalled after their cervical smear tests apparently showed abnormalities. Of these, 41 had warning signs for cancer, 13 had cancer and 16 were disease-free controls.

In a blind survey, the team recorded the blood vessels in each of the samples. They compared the findings with the known condition of each woman. The results showed that those with the highest blood vessel density all had cancer and those with the lowest density were normal.

In the cases between the extremes, those with higher counts had higher degrees of premalignant tumour growth. The women were treated and four of them, who had a recurrence, were all found to have a particularly high blood vessel density.

Dr Murray said that the findings clearly established the link between the number of blood vessels and cancer, but so far it was necessary to do a biopsy to discover the density of them. The next challenge was to find a way of obtaining the same information from the smear test itself.

A protein was already well-known to signal that the density of blood vessels was increasing and once it became possible to isolate it so that a computer could recognise it, then smear tests could be analysed on what would amount to a conveyor belt. All those with abnormalities would be spotted by the computer and all the others cleared.

Dr Murray said that the cancers were generic and there were common factors with breast and colo-rectal malignancies. This should make it possible eventually to use similar screening tests to give early warning of other cancers.

Research, funded by the Cancer Research Campaign and the women's health charity Wellbeing, is now to be widened to analyse tissue from another 200 women in order to discover more about the link between blood density and cervical abnormalities.

Gordon McVie, director-general of the cancer campaign, said the software clearly already worked: "We have a great system on paper and when we can transfer it into practice we will eliminate all these problems of human error caused by boredom, overwork or underwork, which have been responsible for the recent scares.

"You would no longer rely on someone's eye, but on a computer system which should be foolproof."

SMEAR TESTING AND CERVICAL CANCER

- ♂ 4.5 million smear tests a year, cover 85% of female population, involving 4 million women aged 20-64
- ♂ Only 22% of population were tested in 1988
- ♂ Mortality from cervical cancer is falling by 7% a year
- ♂ In 1986 there were 16 deaths per 100,000 women, compared with 11.2 in 1993
- ♂ 3,500 cases each year of cervical cancer. Of 1,300 who die, half have never had a smear test
- ♂ Smear tests cost £130 million a year - £32.50 a woman
- ♂ Health authorities pay GPs on the proportion of women in their practice whom they test, not per smear test
- ♂ Health authorities buy cervical screening from local hospitals where the laboratories are based

Long hours and low pay for hard-pressed staff

By Joanna Bale

UNDER the present system for checking cervical smears, poorly paid laboratory staff spend up to 4½ hours every day looking down a microscope at slides containing 300,000 cells.

They spend up to 25 minutes per slide searching for subtle changes in a single cell which may indicate an abnormality. It is a tedious task, requiring great concentration, and has been likened to searching for a needle in a haystack.

At the Royal London Hospital in East London, where one of Britain's first cytology departments was established in 1964, little has changed in screening methods for 20 years. Geoffrey Curran, a science graduate, who has worked in the laboratory for four years said: "It is a highly skilled and very important job. We all have degrees or equivalent and undergo two years of training, but the pay is very bad. It can be as little as £7,000 when you are training and £11,000 when you qualify.

"We have problems recruiting staff, so we are always very busy. It is very expensive and time-consuming to train people, but many find it boring and go to work in different departments or leave for better-paid jobs."

Mr Curran works with four other medical laboratory scientific officers and a trainee, testing 16,000 smears a year. They also examine 4,000 other specimens for different diseases. Each looks at about 20 smear slides a day, spending a minimum of eight minutes on each.

Abnormal cells are marked with ink and the slide passed on to more senior staff. All negative slides are also rescreened for between 30 seconds and four minutes by another officer. The laboratory has a two to three-week backlog, though urgent tests can be done in two days.

Chris Brown, who runs the laboratory, said: "Even when we are fully staffed, it is difficult to find the time to do essential things like train people, evaluate statistics, and look at the quality of the work."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman vicar is robbed at knifepoint

A vicar was held up at knifepoint by a robber who stole more than £700 from the church safe. The Rev Janet Fortune-Wood, 36, a mother of four, said she feared that the man would sexually assault her after he confronted her outside St Barnabas in Solihull, West Midlands, on Sunday. He made her lock the church doors and open the safe, which contained collection money and takings from the Christmas fête. She said: "He could have been very dangerous. He was very psyched up."

Hostage freed

A British aid worker has been freed after being held hostage for four days by Somali gunmen. Dennis Cassidy, 49, from Merseyside, who works for the European Union's Somalia Unit, was kidnapped with four UN workers at Elayo on the Gulf of Aden.

Bodies returned

The bodies of Shaunnah Turner, 5, her air-hostess mother, Karina, 24, and grandmother, Joan Turner, 53, who were killed in the massacre at Luxor in Egypt, arrived back in West Yorkshire. The funeral will be held at their home village of Ripponden.

Alfa is car of year

The Alfa Romeo 156 has been voted European Car of the Year by journalists from 21 European countries. The 130mph car, which goes on sale in Britain in February, beat the new Volkswagen Golf into second place, with the Audi A6 third.

First of the many

Glenda Jackson, the Aviation Minister, opened a £500,000 passenger terminal at Biggin Hill, southeast London. The former Battle of Britain airfield is expanding from private aircraft to commuter services, and hopes for up to 100,000 travellers a year.

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	El Salvador	60p	£1.31	54%
	Estonia	39p	79p	51%

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	Fiji Islands	67p	£1.35	50%
1/2	**France**	**14p**	**28p**	**50%**
	French Guiana	61p	£1.35	55%
	French Polynesia	67p	£1.35	50%
1/2	**Germany**	**14p**	**28p**	**50%**
	Ghana	65p	£1.31	50%
	Greenland	58p	£1.35	57%
	Guadeloupe	51p	£1.02	50%
	Guam	27p	£1.35	80%
	Guatemala	59p	£1.31	55%
	Honduras	65p	£1.31	50%
1/2	**Hungary**	**19p**	**39p**	**51%**
1/2	**India**	**50/60p**	**£1.20**	**50%**
1/2	**Japan**	**20/24p**	**77p**	**69%**
	Jordan	63p	£1.26	50%
	Korea (South)	54p	£1.08	50%
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	Malawi	60p	£1.31	54%
	Malaysia	37p	77p	52%
	Maldives	67p	£1.35	50%
	Marshall Islands	60p	£1.35	55%
	Martinique	26p	£1.02	74%
	Mauritania	67p	£1.35	50%
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	Panama	65p	£1.31	50%
	Papua New Guinea	47p	£1.35	65%
1/2	**Poland**	**19p**	**39p**	**51%**
	Romania	39p	79p	51%
	Rwanda	67p	£1.35	50%
1/2	**Russia**	**39p**	**79p**	**51%**
	Saint Pierre	37p	78p	53%
	Saipan	60p	£1.30	54%
	Serbia	40p	80p	50%
	Solomon Islands	67p	£1.35	50%
1/2	**South Africa**	**39p**	**78p**	**51%**
	Sudan	50p	£1.31	62%
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MI6 'offered to pay sacked spy for secrets book'

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

A SACKED MI6 officer who has pleaded guilty to a charge under Section 1 of the Official Secrets Act was offered money by his former employers in return for handing over the book he had threatened to publish, a court was told yesterday.

Richard Tomlinson, 34, dismissed from MI6 in 1995, said that he had money problems when Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) officers visited him in Spain after he threatened to write about his operational experiences.

At Bow Street Magistrates' Court in London yesterday, Colin Gibbs, for the prosecution, said that MI6 offered Tomlinson "financial assistance and other support", provided he agreed to drop his claim for unfair dismissal and to hand over all the information he had written down, both on paper and on his computer.

A deal was agreed between MI6 and Tomlinson in February this year, Mr Gibbs said, but subsequently he flew to Australia to find a publisher for his book. At his fourth court appearance since his arrest on October 31, Tomlinson pleaded guilty to the unlawful disclosure of information.

Roland Bartle, the Stipendiary Magistrate, committed him for sentencing at the Old Bailey. He was remanded in custody and faces up to two years in prison.

The court was told that Tomlinson, who was arrested at his home in Milton Keynes, had been in negotiation with Transworld Publishers, in Sydney, and had offered a seven-page synopsis and a short preface outlining the first seven chapters. Two copies of the synopsis were locked in his publisher's cupboard. When MI6 officers visited Transworld and read the synopsis, they confirmed that it contained details of "training, operations, sources and methods".

Mr Gibbs said that, after joining MI6 in September 1991, Tomlinson had been sent out on operations and had "access to a wide range of sensitive information".

However, in August 1995, he was dismissed from the service and his attempt to claim unfair dismissal through an industrial tribunal was blocked by Malcolm Rifkind, then Foreign Secretary.

MI6 discovered that Tomlinson was in contact with *The Sunday Times* and that a number of other articles had appeared about his case claiming that the information came from an unnamed source. MI6 obtained a High Court order preventing *The Sunday Times* from publishing further disclosures. However, despite his earlier agreement not to publish his book, he flew to Sydney to meet publishers.

Owen Davies, for Mr Tomlinson, said the defence would argue that nothing disclosed had damaged the national interest. "There was really no substantial or realistic danger to national security at all," he said.

After the hearing, John Wadham, Tomlinson's solicitor, issued a statement on his behalf which said: "I wanted to plead not guilty to expose this hypocrisy, but the draconian nature of the Official Secrets Act makes this impossible. There is no public interest defence. I would have been guilty even if I had disclosed the colour of the carpets in the office."

Agent's threat to deal with enemy

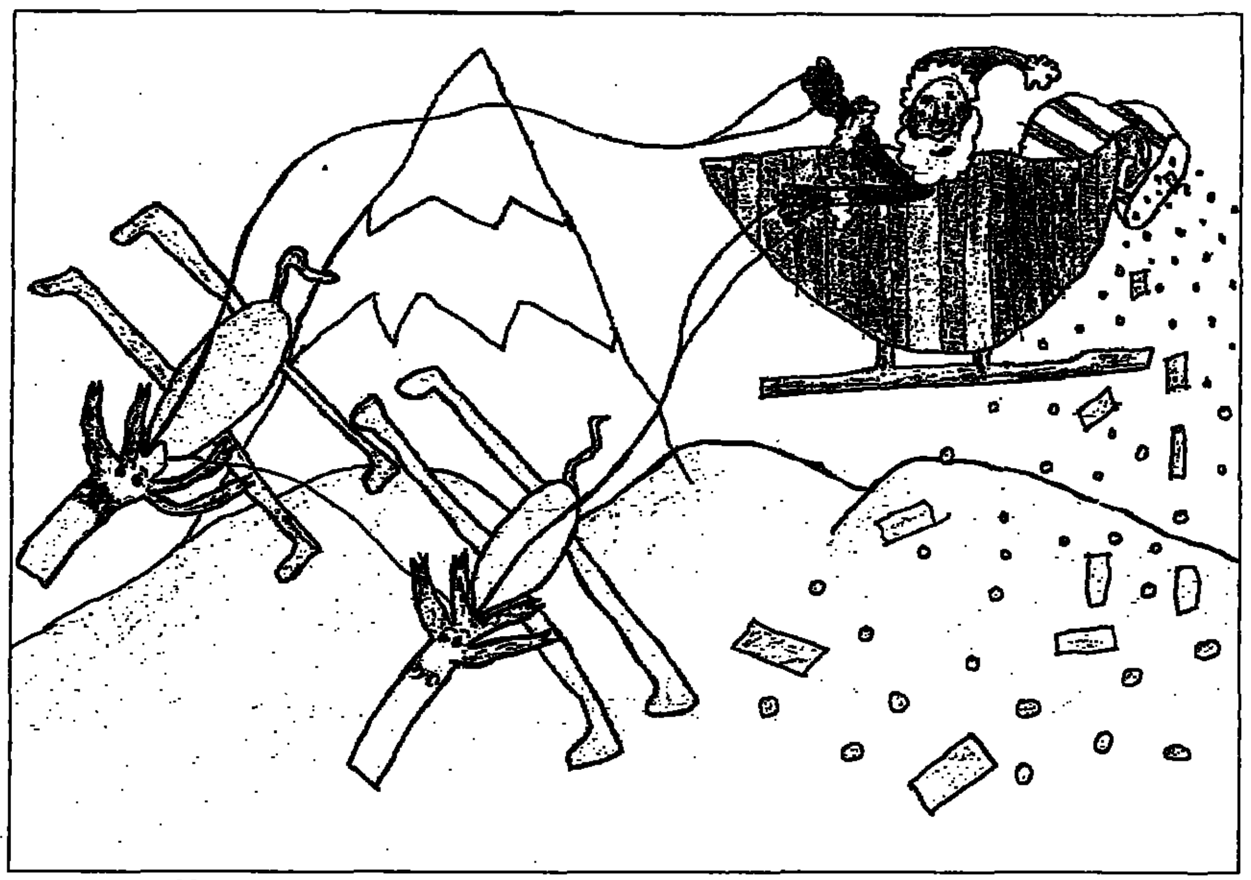
RICHARD TOMLINSON, a graduate of aeronautical engineering from Cambridge University and a potential MI6 high flyer, admitted in a letter to the Secret Intelligence Service that he was prepared to "contemplate the unthinkable step of contacting a hostile power".

His threat was one of many in a series of letters to his former MI6 employers after being sacked from the service. The contents of these confidential letters emerged during bail applications at Bow Street Magistrates' Court.

Last week, after revealing the letters *in camera*, the prosecution gave the details of correspondence in open court. One letter referred to the possibility of "holding a press conference in Moscow". Tomlinson's four-year career in MI6 included a covert "diplomatic" post in Moscow and six months of intelligence-gathering in Bosnia. His last job involved trying to stop weapons of mass destruction being acquired by Iran.

At every court appearance, Tomlinson was denied bail because it emerged that he was trained in escape techniques and was skilled in the use of aliases. After his arrest, police found false documents hidden at his house.

The threat by Tomlinson to publish a book on his operational career with MI6 — or to release the coded contents on to the Internet from two pre-programmed computers — threatened to plunge the Government into another *Spycatcher* affair.



Flight of fancy: the card by Nicholas Gibb, 7, whose uncle works on the Treasury's staff magazine

Chancellor sends gifts from the sky in Treasury greeting

Santa Brown's official Christmas card rejects the usual historical portrait, reports **Andrew Pierce**

GORDON BROWN has rejected tradition for his official Christmas card in favour of the artistic talents of the children of Treasury staff.

In the past the Chancellor of the day chose a portrait of one of his predecessors from the government picture collection. But the bachelor Chancellor, who is widely rumoured to be considering marriage, held a design competition instead for the children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces of Treasury staff.

Mr Brown was overwhelmed by the response. "It was one of the toughest decisions he has made since he became Chancellor," an aide said last night.

In the end the Chancellor, who presents his pre-Budget report today, fudged the outcome and declared a tie because he could not bear to hurt the children's feelings.

The two winning designs were by Keir Ferguson, 9, whose mother, Gillian, works on the Treasury local government team, and Nicholas Gibb, 7, whose uncle, James Coker, is assistant editor of *Chequerboard*, the Treasury staff magazine. Keir, a pupil of Gordon Brock School, Brockley, South London, and Nicholas, of Tudor School, Finchley, North London, will meet Mr Brown at 11 Downing Street when it is decorated for Christmas. Keir drew a colourful collection of Christmas stars and James's had Father Christmas and two reindeers on a green sleigh, with gifts pouring out of his sack, which is more than most people expect from Mr Brown's new Budget box when he unveils the contents of his statement today.

Among those who will receive the boys' handiwork are Alan Greenspan, head of the American Federal Reserve, and Kenneth Clarke, Mr Brown's predecessor.

Mr Brown, who is planning to spend Christmas with his family in Scotland with his girlfriend, Sarah MacAuley, said: "Christmas is a time for children. I thought it would be right if the Treasury's Christmas greetings could be seen through the eyes of youngsters. I am delighted with their work."

Lloyd George, by Low, last year's Treasury card

Vicar who took porn photos of children is jailed

By Simon de Bruxelles

A VICAR who fled abroad after admitting taking indecent photographs of children was jailed yesterday after 16 months on the run. The Rev Merfyn Roberts, 62, a former prison chaplain, was extradited from the Czech Republic, where he had secured a job teaching English at a Prague boys' school.

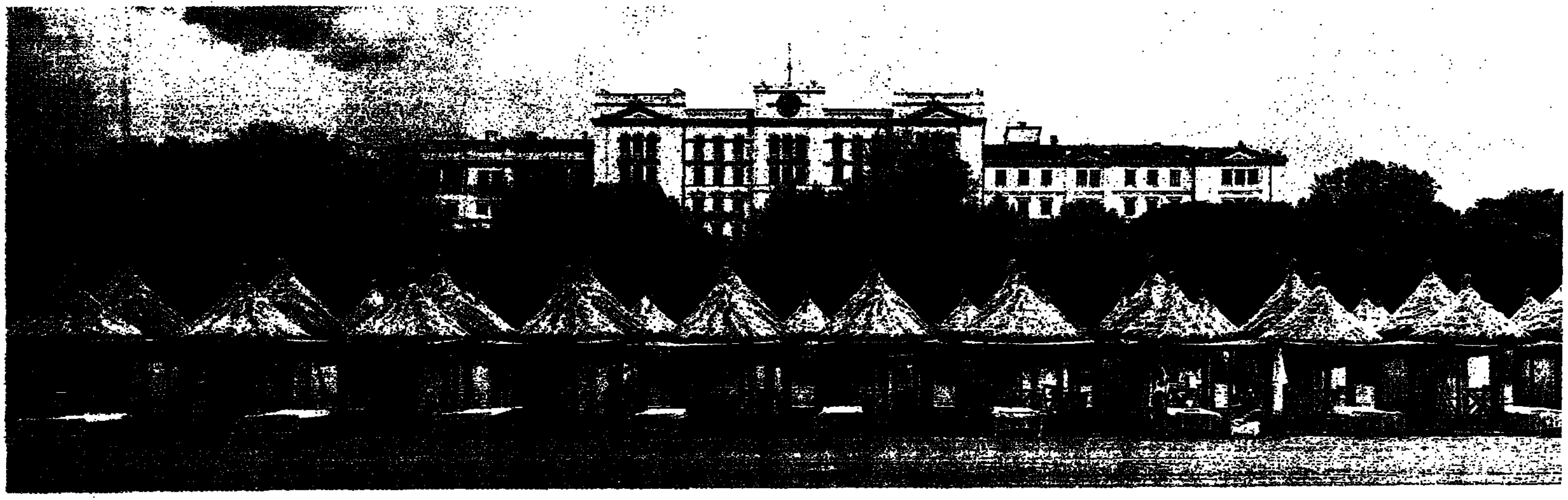
Before vanishing, Roberts, a grandfather, had admitted seven charges of taking indecent photographs of girls. He was granted bail and disappeared from his vicarage at Llanpumsaint, Dyfed, a week before sentencing in June last year. He left a false trail, but was arrested in Prague in July after a British tourist recognised him.

Patrick Griffiths, for the prosecution, said that the vicar was arrested after he took a slide film to be processed in Swansea. A technician alerted the police. Roberts denied deliberately taking indecent photographs, but admitted that the pictures of a five-year-old were "a bit rude".

Police later found a hoard of pornography at his vicarage — "A large number of them depicted naked adult females," said Mr Griffiths. They discovered indecent pictures of another girl "in identical poses" to the women. They found that Roberts was renting a photographic studio. He insisted it was used for legitimate portrait work.

Elwen Evans, for the defence, said a jail sentence would be "particularly burdensome" because, as a sex offender and former prison chaplain, Roberts would be subjected to abuse from other inmates. "Threats have been made already," she said.

Judge Martin Stephens, at Swansea Crown Court, jailed him for 15 months and put him on the paedophile register. The judge told him: "You exploited these young children for your own sexual gratification."



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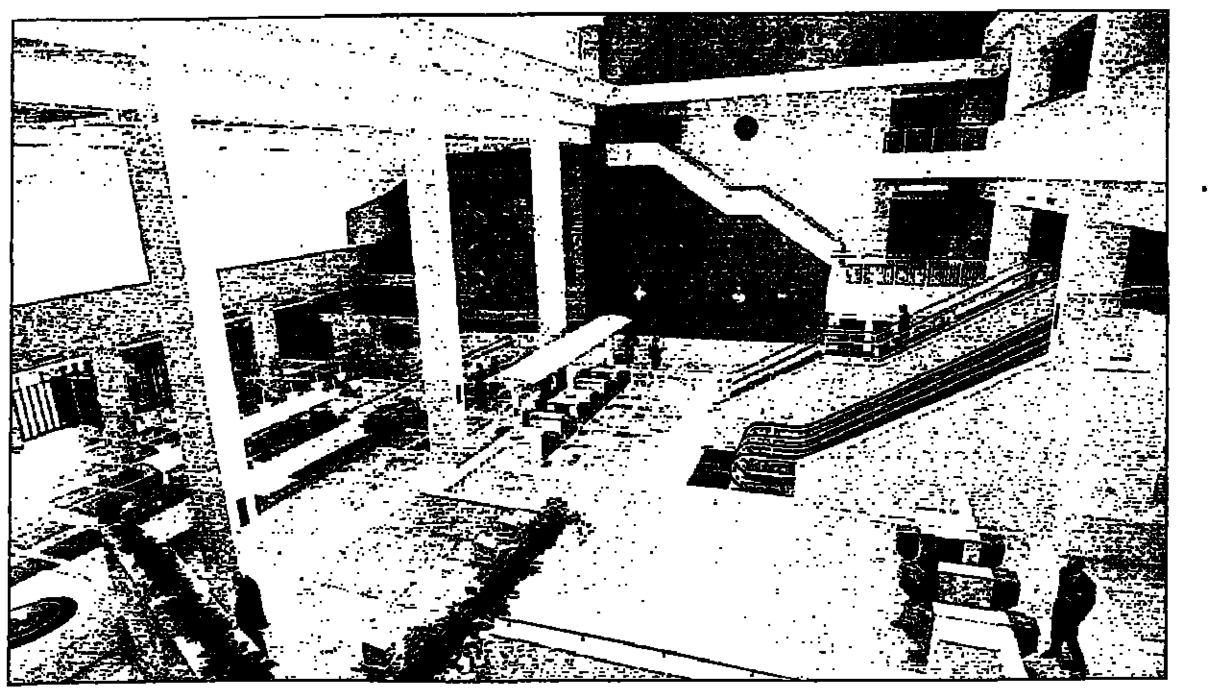

Keeping a sense of calm: the entrance lobby of the new British Library and, right, Erica Wagner outside

Readers' acclaim speaks volumes

By Erica Wagner

Erica Wagner has been Literary Editor of *The Times* since December 1996. Before joining the paper in 1995 she worked for three years as a freelance editor and reviewer, spending most of her days in the old British Library — of which she grew very fond. Her collection of short stories, *Gravity*, has just been published by Granta Books: one of the tales, *Please Don't*, is set in the Round Reading Room

AT 9.30am a group of 60 readers entered the new British Library to a sound rarely heard within such walls: applause. As we marched into the library's high, white atrium, the assembled staff stood to welcome us. After years of delay and spiralling expense — a projected budget swelled from £116 million to £511 million — the Humanities Reading Room was at last ready for its first readers.

The move from the old round Reading Room at the British Museum had not been easy. Antonio Panizzi's blue domed space was beloved by all who used it — I loved it, for the three years I worked there before coming to *The Times*, and I shared the trepidation as we stood outside in the cold, waiting for the doors to open. "I was just devastated when I knew the old Reading Room was closing," said Jean Field, a regular reader researching a book on the Varley family of painters.

Rod Adams, progressing with his thesis on Eamon De Valera's Cuban antecedents, was concerned that the new library's King's Cross site would attract "riff-raff". "Perhaps it will attract a better class of dosser," interjected Graham Boyes, a retired British Rail employee investigating transport history.

But inside the library, the noise and colour — to put it charitably — of King's Cross seems far distant. Here is an oasis of quiet calm: though a ten-minute queue to leave bags and coats in the cloakroom (a service now obligatory to deter theft) dampened the welcome. But upstairs, champagne and coffee greeted us, as it did the first users of Panizzi's library in 1857.

Doubtless several of the library's shelves (which never, contrary to rumour, flung their precious cargo of books from their safe embrace) could be filled with the arguments about Colin St John Wilson's design for the new library: "A lump of bodging on cosmic scale," said Jonathan Meades; "an academy for secret police," ventured the Prince of Wales. Yet the new Reading Room, seating 452 as opposed to the old library's 393, is a fine airy room, the curve of one white wall seeming an echo of the old dome, its height — arching over a second tier of reading space — giving the same sense of space and calm.

The doubters began to be convinced: Penelope Farmer, at work on the *Penguin Book of Sisters* and a long-time user of the old library, believed that Wilson was wrongly reviled. She pointed to the wood detailing on the walls. "It's lovely, like something from a harem," she said. But she had left her glasses in her bag downstairs and had to go back for them — an inconvenience of the cloakroom system. However, she hoped — now that 12 million volumes will be on site rather than scattered around the country — that book retrieval would improve. "I've worked in libraries all over the world and getting books was always a doddle compared to the British Library. I'll miss the elegance of the old place, but I won't miss the wait for the books."

Once all the books are on site — there are nearly three million in place now, and it will be 1999 before the move is completed — books should take half an hour to retrieve from the 300 kilometres of shelving stretching 23 metres below ground. Mike Crumb, director of reader services, said that, at the old library, books from other sites could take a day to arrive. It was often more like three.

But this morning the computer catalogue told me that *A Beginner's Guide to Weaving*, by Kenneth Ponting, was on site: I didn't request Enid Gouldie's *Spinning and Weaving* as it was still on its way to the building. No more filling in request slips to be sucked into pneumatic tubes: a few taps on the keyboard and the computer ordered my book. It was 11am. At 11.40 the little light on my desk told me to collect my book. In the old library 47 per cent of the materials were on site; when the book move is finished that will rise to 82 per cent.

I was duly impressed, as was John Morgan, who had come from Germany to complete a PhD on property valuation. "I ordered books in advance," he said, "but I was so sure they wouldn't be here I bought an open ticket for my return. But they were waiting for me when I arrived." Years of living in Germany have clearly undermined his belief in British efficiency. He did discover, however, that, when he went to plug in his laptop computer, an elegant detail on the new desks blocked the insertion of his adaptor.

Then there was the matter of the public telephones, none of which was working. All BT's fault, I was assured, and shortly to be repaired; but after so much time and so many hitches these seemed like minor flaws.

Brian Lang, the library's chief executive, was undaunted by such matters. "We'll all miss the round reading room," he said. "But everyone — readers and staff — will be better served here." It had, he felt, been worth the wait. Eighty new readers were registered before 11am yesterday, a substantial increase on usual new registration, and 2,000 books were issued to the reading room before 11.30.

It did seem that the new British Library had met its first invasion of readers with order, efficiency and books on demand. I loved the old Reading Room: I was prepared to be sentimental and stroppy. But sitting there yesterday, writing, I could still smell leather and paper. I still felt enveloped by peace — and I knew I would not grow old waiting to read about weavings, warp and weft.

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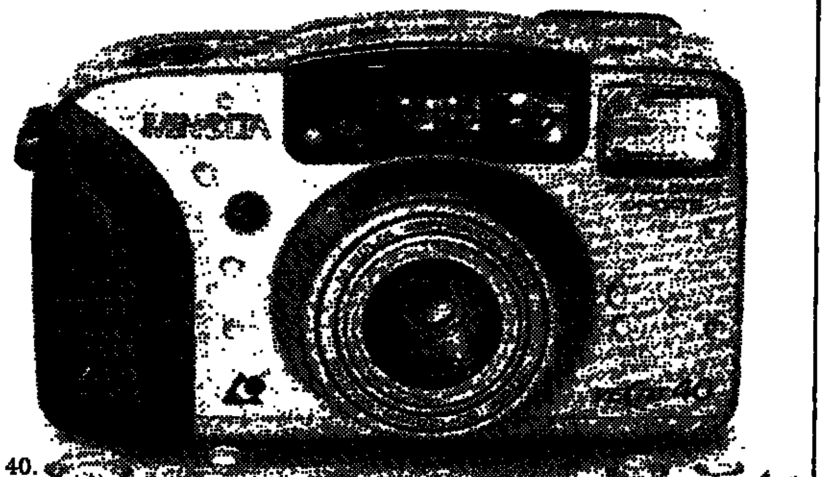

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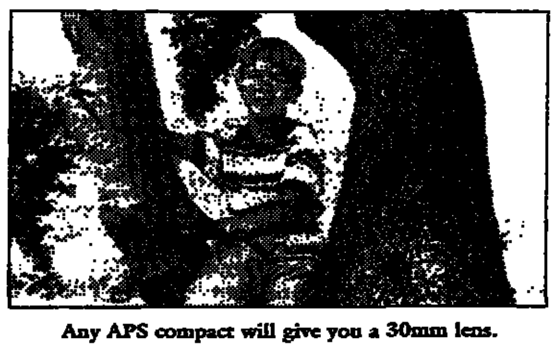

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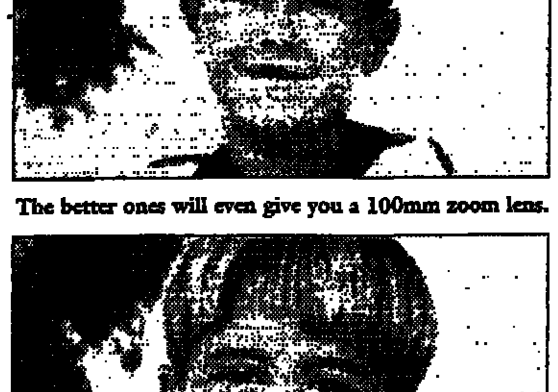
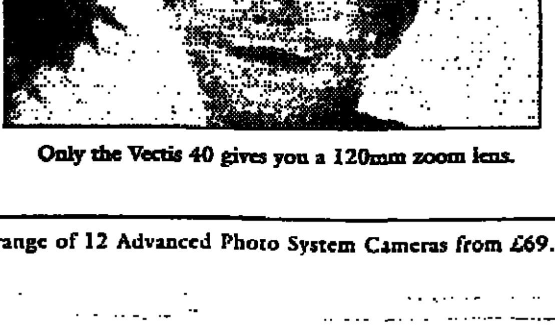


The better ones will even give you a 100mm zoom lens.



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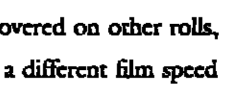

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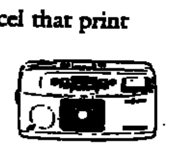
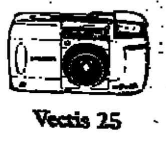


Vectis 10

Vectis 20



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Mrs Mandela unmoved by accusers

PETER ANDREWS / REUTERS

Winnie Mandela sits impassively during the hearing in Johannesburg yesterday

Scared witnesses tell of her alleged central role in campaign of torture and murder, **Sam Kiley** reports

WINNIE Madikizela-Mandela sat impassive through eight hours of harrowing testimony given in stifling heat yesterday as former friends and long-standing enemies accused her of torture, abduction and several murders.

Mrs Mandela, 63, the former wife of Nelson Mandela, confronted her accusers for the first time at a hearing of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission into the "Mandela United Football Club" that could decide her political future.

She remained unmoved as Phumlile Dlamini sobbed and told how the woman who was once hailed as a champion of the oppressed had attacked her in a jealous rage and orchestrated the murder of her brother Thuli. She whispered instructions to her lawyers as Thami Hlatswayo, a former guerrilla of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the African National Congress, said he had been present when a witness to the killing of his superior officer, who had clashed with Mrs Mandela, had been shot on her orders.

The erstwhile "Mother of the Nation", who is running for the deputy presidency of the ANC, remained deadpan as Nicodemus Sono accused her of having tortured and abducted his son Lolo nine years ago.

She stared with visible venom at John Morgan, her former driver and friend for 40 years, who told the commission she had begun four days of torture of four youths. Mr Morgan, given a one-year suspended sentence for kidnapping during the 1991 trial of Mrs Mandela and others for the murder of Stompie Moeketsi Seipei, said the beatings led directly to the death of the 14-year-old activist.

He dismissed her alibi that she was far away in Brandfort at the time Stompie died — a central part of her defence that meant she received a suspended sentence and a fine for kidnapping rather than the death sentence for murder.

Dressed in an elegant suit with a pattern of blue roses and white high-heeled shoes, Mrs Mandela swept into a hall, surrounded by a phalanx of private bodyguards, exuding the confidence of a Hollywood star. The shine never left her as successive witnesses gave evidence that cast her and other members of the "football club", a township vigilante group she set up during a reign of terror in the 1980s in Soweto, as principal actors in a series of ghastly crimes.

Tutu: chairman of the truth commission

Hlatswayo: said he saw murder witness shot

The commission, set up under the chairmanship of Archbishop Desmond Tutu to investigate apartheid-era political crimes and to hear amnesty applications, sat grim-faced through bitter exchanges between Mrs Mandela's legal team. "When they started the football club everyone admired them. I did too: we all loved Winnie. But they then started a reign of terror, burning houses and killing people," said Mrs Dlamini, who said the son she was carrying at the time of her beating from Mrs Mandela and other members of the club was born with learning difficulties.

All the alleged murders and beatings were carried out during 1988 when Mrs Mandela was deeply involved in organising ANC guerrilla insurgent operations inside South Africa. The testimony given yesterday showed she was simultaneously orchestrating a terror campaign against her own community.

Mr Sono, a prominent Soweto businessman who gave sanctuary to guerrillas in his own home, last saw his son Lolo in the back of the Mandela minibus where he was being held by two youths he did not recognize. But he had known the woman sitting in the front since 1976.

"She said that he was a police spy and that she was 'taking this dog away and the movement [the ANC] would decide what to do'," he said.

"I had never seen the other side of Winnie. She was very aggressive and shouting at me so I pleaded with her to let me keep Lolo at home as he had already been beaten. But she refused," he added.

The fear instilled during the football club years still gripped other witnesses. Nona Shabala, whose son disappeared the day after Lolo, his best friend and neighbour, said she had not reported him as missing to the police because she was afraid.

Mrs Shabala whimpered: "I am scared of Winnie . . . she is not scared of seeing blood on the floor of her own home. But I am afraid to see it." Mrs Mandela is expected to take the stand this week.

Assassin of Hani seeking amnesty

Mamelodi, South Africa: The Polish assassin of Chris Hani, the South African Communist Party leader, said yesterday that the friendliness of his police interrogator, who had plied him with alcohol while professing to share his right-wing beliefs, had fooled him into confessing to the murder.

Janusz Walus is seeking an amnesty from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for the 1993 murder of Hani, one of the country's foremost black leaders. His fellow conspirator, Clive Derby-Lewis, a white rightwinger also seeking an amnesty from the commission, gave Walus the pistol with which he killed Hani. Both are serving life sentences.

Resuming his testimony to the commission after a three-month adjournment, Walus said he acted on orders from Derby-Lewis and the white Conservative Party (CP), which boycotted the 1994 election won by President Mandela's African National Congress. "I did this under the instructions of Clive and the CP. I agreed to take this task on myself because I believed that it could stop the takeover of power by the ANC and the Communist Party of South Africa." *(Reuters)*

TB sweeps through southern Balkans

FROM JAMES PETTIFER IN TIRANA

WITH winter approaching, hundreds of new cases of tuberculosis are being reported across the southern Balkans in an epidemic that is threatening to overwhelm the region's sanatoriums.

Across hundreds of miles of mountains from the Adriatic to the Black Sea, the old scourge from before the Second World War is returning. Isolation hospitals, virtually deserted for years, are full of new patients, many of them young, with the soft cough that George Orwell and contemporaries knew so well in the industrial North of England before 1939.

Poverty-stricken Albania is one of the worst affected countries, with about 155 deaths in the past six months attributed to the disease, mostly in far northern and north-eastern areas, where most medical facilities have collapsed. However, the Tirana Sanatorium, not far from the presidential palace, on the Elbasan Road, is also crowded with patients in Dickensian conditions.

Dr Shahin Kadara, a local World Health Organisation representative, said: "There is no doubt that with this disease we are facing a crisis."

Sithole, 77, denies treason plot to blow up Mugabe

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

THE Rev Ndabaningi Sithole, the once fire-breathing radical leader of Zimbabwe's black nationalist movement, went on trial here yesterday, accused of trying to murder President Mugabe and overthrow his Government.

Revered as god-like among the Shangaan tribe of south-east Zimbabwe who support his small party, he pleaded not guilty in the High Court to treason, conspiracy and possession of arms of war. If found guilty by Judge Esmael Chatikobo, he may be hanged.

Mr Sithole, 77, was arrested in November 1995 after a member of his ZANV-Ndonga party was caught on a main road outside the capital with a bomb just before Mr Mugabe's motorcade was due.

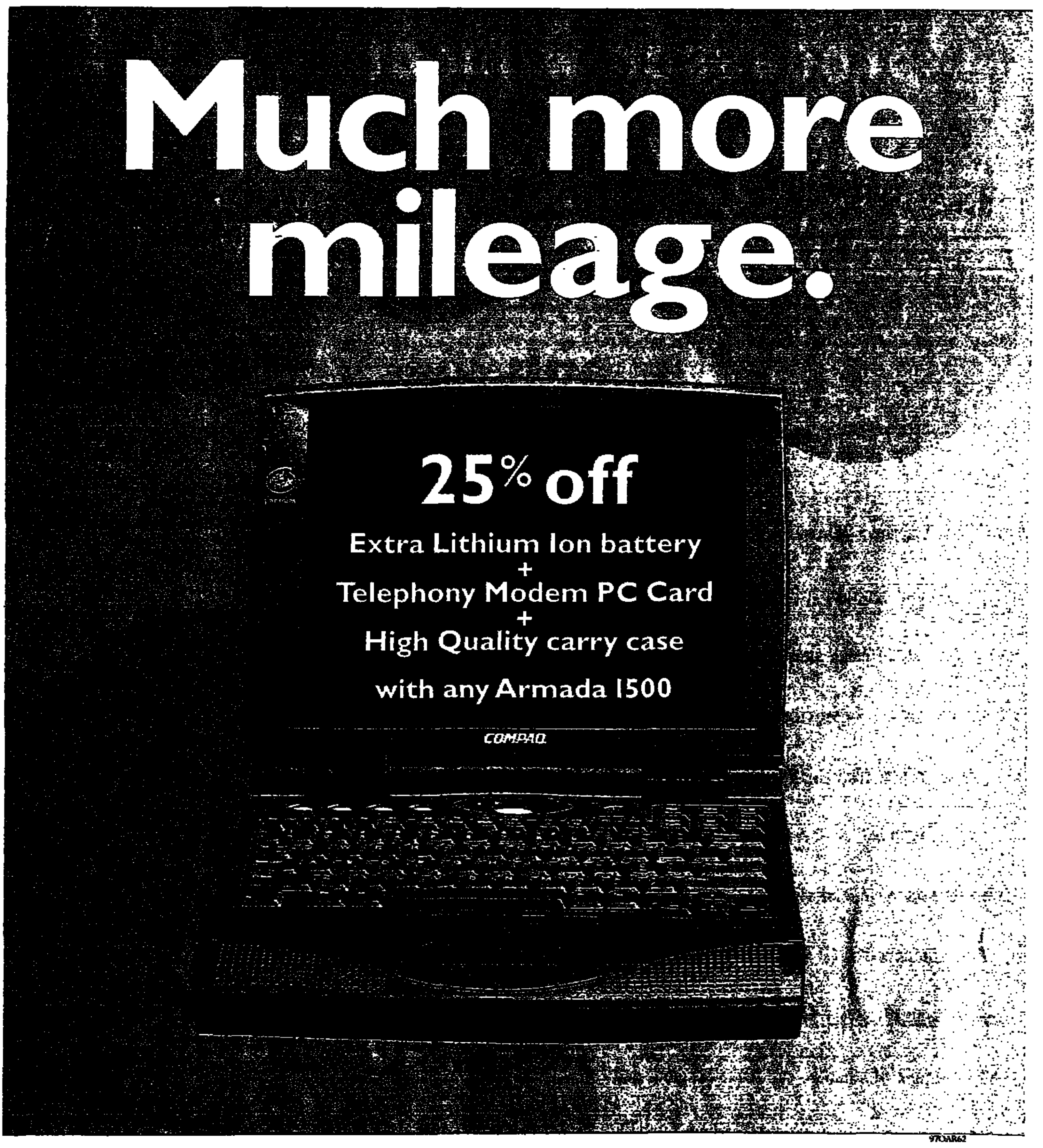
Sithole: lawyer says he is "sickly and senile"

The aide, an officer of the alleged military wing of Mr Sithole's party now serving a 15-year sentence, and other witnesses have provided evidence alleging that Mr Sithole sent young supporters for military training in Mozambique. They say that he ordered the distribution of weapons and explosives, and directed the anti-Mugabe plot.

There is no love lost between the two men. Mr Sithole headed the movement against white rule in the former Rhodesia until Mr Mugabe ousted him in 1974. Regarded as having led the start of the "armed struggle" in Rhodesia, he was jailed for six years in 1969 for plotting to kill Ian Smith, the then Prime Minister.

There is scepticism, however, over the threat posed by Mr Sithole. He showed little interest in the court proceedings and appeared to nod off. His lawyer, Tendai Biti, says he is "sickly and senile".

Judges in the trials of other alleged conspirators called the accused amateur. The anti-personnel mine had little chance of seriously damaging the bullet-proof presidential Mercedes.



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هكذا من الأصل

British con artist offers 'Aids cure' to Kenyan patients

David Orr

tracks down the man who tricked Noel Edmonds out of £70,000

A BRITISH conman has turned up in Kenya with what may be his cruellest hoax yet. Basil Wainwright, who once swindled the television personality Noel Edmonds out of £70,000 in a phoney powerboat scheme, is peddling unapproved treatment to dying Aids and cancer sufferers.

He says that he is giving his services free but members of Kenya's medical profession say he is making a fortune from people's suffering.

Mr Wainwright, 63 — who is also known as Dr Stone — claims he has made a breakthrough in the treatment of numerous deadly and debilitating diseases. He says that his invention of equipment using a highly reactive gas called polyatomic oxygen is the most effective means yet of combating HIV.

"I was the first scientist to successfully convert HIV-positive to negative," he told *The Times* at his large home and laboratory on the outskirts of Nairobi. He added: "So far we've achieved 35 successful conversions from HIV-positive to a state of total clinical regression of the disease. If I'm the greatest conman in the world, how did I get these results?"

He introduced a woman called Esther, 23, whose life he claims to have saved. As a result of his treatment, he said, HIV was no longer detectable in her body. He added that some formerly HIV-positive patients had even tested antibody-negative after treatment.

Kenya's medical establishment is not impressed. "This man is a quack," said Dr Khama Rogo, the chairman of the Kenyan Medical Association. "He's a crook of the highest order. The claims he's making are outrageous."

Dr James Nyikal, the deputy chairman of the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board, the regulatory body in Kenya, said: "We want this man investigated. What he's doing is illegal. He's not a doctor and I don't think he's safe to treat humans."

He added that he had seen receipts and copies of cheques made out to Basil Wainwright. Some patients, he says, are being asked to pay up to 500,000 Kenyan shillings (£5,000) for treatment.

According to Dr Rogo, one American woman who inquired about Aids treatment was told a complete course would cost £12,000. "You're charged according to how wealthy you appear," he said. "If you're rich, you could be really fleeced. I know two people with cancer who spent over £12,000 each on his treatment. They were told they were cured. Both are now dead."

Mr Wainwright is associated with a Nairobi clinic called Beyond 2000 and a number of church-based clinics. He says that he provides equipment, training and advice to these operations free.

He received a three-year jail sentence in 1983 for defrauding Mr Edmonds. In 1990 he was jailed for four years in the United States for running an unlicensed medical practice and selling bogus equipment. A Florida judge called him an "extreme danger to the community". The American authorities estimate that he could have made up to £1 million from the hoax.

Mr Wainwright's authorisation to operate in Kenya came from the Ministry of Health, which was told to short-circuit licensing procedures. The medical bodies believe the instruction came from President Moi.

GUILLAUME BONN

Basil Wainwright, in a wheelchair at his Nairobi home after a car accident, is claiming success against Aids

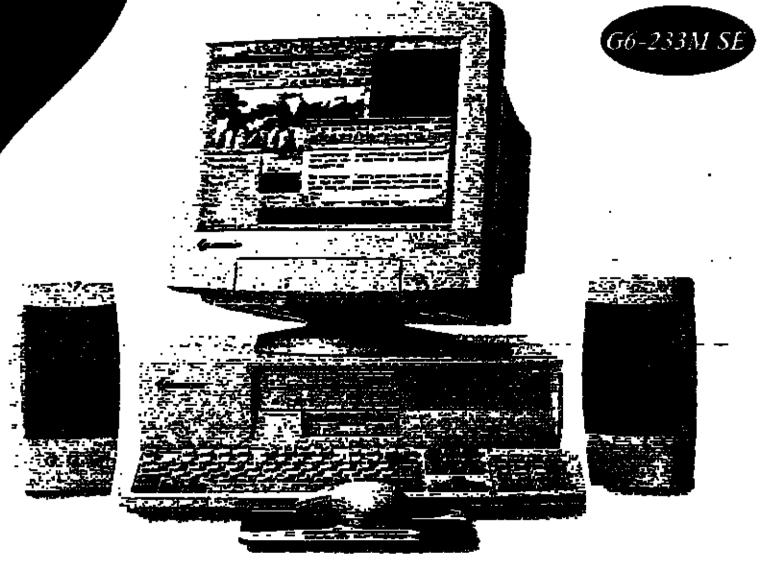
Austrian party vows to save the schilling

By Roger Boyes

JÖRG HAIDER, the leader of Austria's far-right Freedom Party, yesterday launched a Save the Schilling campaign to mobilise Eurosceptics against the euro.

Under Austrian law it is sufficient to gather 100,000 signatures within a week to ensure that an issue — in this case a referendum on participation in European economic and monetary union (EMU) — is brought before parliament. The petitioners cannot, however, force the hand of the ruling Social Democrat/People's Party coalition that has always rejected Herr Haider's demands for a euro vote.

The Freedom Party leader calculates that he will win either way: if the Government snubs his referendum demand he will present himself as the true voice of the people; if the Government accepts a poll, the old splits over Europe can be exploited. In either situation, Herr Haider will be able to stir up considerable anti-European sentiment.



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WORLD IN BRIEF

Indian coalition on verge of collapse

Delhi: India's seven-month-old minority coalition Government neared its end yesterday after a row with the party which had been keeping it in power forced parliament to be suspended.

Inder Kumar Gujral's centre-left coalition formally rejected a demand by its Congress Party ally to drop a southern party from the federal Government. The lower house of parliament was indefinitely adjourned, and is expected to be dissolved, after MPs from Congress and the regional Dravida Munnetra Kazagham brought proceedings to a halt by shouting at each other.

Congress wants the regional party removed from the Government after an investigation into the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, six years ago linked the grouping with Tamil separatists in Sri Lanka. *(Reuters)*

Septuplet suffers setback

Des Moines: One of the world's only septuplets, born last week to Bobbi and Kenny McCaughey, has been put back on a breathing device. The hospital said Joel, the last-born, had breathing problems and his condition had changed from fair to serious. His brothers and sisters were all doing well although only one, Kenneth, the first-born, was breathing on his own. *(Reuters)*

Pressure for 'Reagan' airport

Washington: Momentum is building among Republicans to rename Washington National airport after Ronald Reagan, right (Ian Brodie writes). They hope to pass a Bill endorsing the idea before Mr Reagan's 87th birthday on February 6. Then it would be up to President Clinton, a Democrat, to sign the measure, which has won backing from all 32 Republican state governors, led by George Allen, Governor of Virginia, where the airport is sited.

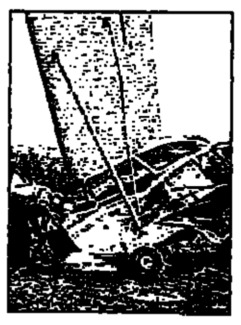
Ban on cheating sparks riot

Quetta, Pakistan: Students went on the rampage, forcing a university campus to close, after being refused the right to cheat in exams, officials said. Police were called to the Engineering and Technology faculty at Khuzdar, in the southwest of the country. Student leaders said they had been told the authorities would look the other way if they cheated. *(Reuters)*

Fugitive faces extradition

Athens: Extradition hearings have begun for an Italian fugitive initially linked to the 1978 murder of Aldo Moro, Italy's former Prime Minister. Authorities here had said that Enrico Bianco was arrested in connection with that case, but later they said the warrant had failed to mention the 1981 acquittal in absentia of Bianco, who is also sought on robbery and drug charges. *(AP)*

Plane that took off on its own



Chicago: Aviation officials are investigating how a vintage propeller plane took off without its pilot and flew nearly 100 miles for more than an hour before crash-landing into a farm field, left. The 50-year-old, single-engine Aeronica Champ, which took off from Urbana Grimes Field near Dayton, Ohio, after pilot Paul Sirks got out to hand-crank the propeller, buzzed the field and then flew north before running out of fuel and crashing. *(Reuters)*

Children die in film stampede

Kayes, Mali: Seven children died during a stampede here when the horror film they were watching suddenly stopped, plunging the cinema into darkness, police said. The children, aged from 6 to 12, were watching a film called *A Two-Headed Man* when the projector stopped. Apparently one child started screaming in the darkness and a stampede ensued. *(AFP)*

Greek village protests curbed

Athens: Police clamped martial law-style restrictions on Olympiada and neighbouring Varvara in northern Greece where there have been violent protests against a planned Canadian gold-processing plant. Olympiada's local president was among four people questioned after 99 petrol bombs, three barrels of chemicals, and spent bullets were found at a checkpoint. *(AP)*

Sabbath rest from virtual pet

Jerusalem: An ultra-Orthodox rabbi in the northern town of Safed has ruled that virtual pets should fend for themselves on the Jewish sabbath, an Israeli newspaper reported. It said he gave the decision to a strictly observant Jewish youth who rebelled against letting his pet "die" every week. *(AP)*

هكذا من الأصل

Clamour for new anthem after Italian footballers did not know the score

From Richard Owen
in Rome

PRESSURE is growing for a new Italian national anthem after complaints by Professor Romani Prodi, the Prime Minister, that few Italians seem to know the present one, which was written 150 years ago. Top favourites for a replacement include Verdi's *Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves*.

Signor Prodi's concern apparently came to a head a week ago when, shortly before the World Cup finals qualifying match between Italy and Russia, only one of the Italian players — Fabrizio Ravanelli, the former Middlesbrough player — knew any of the words. The rest of the team stayed silent during the anthem (which many Italians privately consider archaic and turgid). Italian television reported that the Prime Minister was worried that Italy would "be made to look foolish in the eyes of a global audience" if its national team stayed mute during the World Cup in France next year.

"Only Ravanelli's lips moved at all at the start of the match with Russia," the Rome daily *Il Messaggero* said. "Our lads have acquired bad habits. They should sing to show that our Italian hearts beat in unison and are full of patriotic sentiment."

Cesare Romiti, the chairman of Fiat, also expressed concern. "Somebody should tell the players that the national anthem is a symbol of Italy and is therefore worth singing," he said.

But *Panorama* magazine said: "The truth is that very few people know the anthem, so perhaps we should change it." The anthem, properly entitled *Fratelli d'Italia* (Brothers of Italy), was written by Goffredo Mameli, a poet and revolutionary who fought for a united Italy and died aged 22 while defending the short-lived Roman Republic of 1849. Mameli's death made him a hero of the Risorgimento, which culminated in the unification of Italy in 1860, with Victor Emmanuel II of Savoy proclaimed King the following year.

Mameli's anthem includes such stirring lines as "For centuries we have been downtrodden and derided, because we were not one people, we were divided. Let us take up a single flag to bind us together, for now the hour has struck." But *Il Messaggero* said no one could be expected to sing "impossible" words such as "Brothers of Italy, Italy is woken, with Scipio's helmet she has girded her head."

The Mameli anthem was described as provisional, but has never been replaced. Many Italians favour *Va, pensiero, sull'ali dorate*, more popularly known as the *Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves*, from Verdi's *Nabucco*. The separatist Northern League, led by Umberto Bossi, has attempted to adopt the theme as the anthem for its proposed North Italian state of "Padania", arguing that since he was born at Busseto near Parma and died in Milan, Verdi was a "Padanian" himself. In fact, Verdi was a leading champion of Italian unification.

Squabbles mar Chirac-Jospin 'partnership'

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

INSULTS flew between the rival camps of Lionel Jospin and President Chirac yesterday, amid predictions that their uneasy power-sharing "cohabitation" is heading for an early break-up.

For the first time since his election victory six months ago, the Socialist Prime Minister took a direct swipe at M Chirac, mocking the conservative President for mistakenly calling the election that has forced him to share power with a left-wing government.

Responding to M Chirac's criticisms of his "hazardous experimentation" in employment policy, M Jospin, speaking at the Socialist congress in Brest at the weekend, pointed out that the President himself was no stranger to political hazards.

"That reminds me of a hazardous experiment that took place on April 21, 1997," M Jospin said, referring to M Chirac's ill-fated decision to dissolve parliament and call elections which brought the Socialists to power.

"Cohabitation" between the two most powerful men in France is proving increasingly fractious, and M Jospin's willingness to lash out at the man whom he referred to only as "the other head of the executive" is a sign of his growing popularity and confidence. Philippe Séguin, head of the Gaullist RPR party, dismissed M Jospin's remarks as arrogance, while Jean-Louis Debré, the Interior Minister in the former conservative Government, said the Prime Minister had become aggressive after finding himself isolated from other European leaders on the issue of employment at the Luxembourg summit.

The latest polls show that M Jospin is admired by 69 per cent of French voters, including a majority of opposition supporters, and his judicious handling of the recent lorry drivers' strike has been hailed as proof of his efficient, if unexciting, style. By contrast, only 6 per cent of voters believe M Chirac is still in control of France.

Technically, the uncomfortable power-sharing arrangement could last five years, but M Chirac has the power to call another election a year after the last, and many observers predict that, following the latest acrimonious exchanges, "cohabitation" is doomed to an early death.

Jacques Delors, the Socalist former President of the European Commission, said he was convinced the power-sharing arrangement would not last. He predicted there would be either legislative or presidential elections before the five years were up. "How long can you go on with an executive with two heads?" M Delors said in a television interview.

That view was echoed on the Right by Charles Pasqua, the former Gaullist minister, who said he strongly doubted that the "cohabitation" would continue for the full term.

Boosted by M Jospin's popularity, the Socialists have made it abundantly clear that M Chirac can expect a serious confrontation if he exceeds his presidential brief by taking issue with government policy, as he has over M Jospin's plans to reduce the working week to 35 hours. M Chirac was on an official visit to French Guiana yesterday and declined to comment on the spat.

François Hollande, who will succeed M Jospin as First Secretary of the Socialist Party, offered M Chirac what looked suspiciously like a threat: "The President must not confuse his role. He is the head of state, but he must not be leader of the Opposition, at least not all the time."

M Chirac may decide to stake his presidency on another election at the first opportunity.

MICHEL GANGNE / EPA

A policewoman stands guard outside the Paris court-house yesterday where 38 fundamentalists faced charges of helping Algerian terrorists

Muslim radicals on trial over French bombings

From Ben Macintyre
in Paris

A GROUP of 38 Islamic fundamentalists went on trial in Paris yesterday, charged with helping Algerian terrorists to carry out a bombing campaign in France in 1995.

Anti-riot police set up a tight cordon around the court-house and security was also heavy in some Metro stations, with soldiers and police armed with machineguns patrolling the underground platforms.

Most of those in the dock are the sons of North African Muslim immigrants, who were born in France and allegedly recruited by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most radical of the rebel groups fighting to overthrow the regime in Algiers. The GIA claimed responsibility for the wave of bomb attacks in France in which eight people died and more than 170 were injured.

The 38 accused men have been charged with providing logistical support for the terrorists, but their lawyers say they should not have to face trial until the individuals who planted the bombs are brought to justice. Several suspects have been killed by security forces in France and Algeria.

Most of the defendants are alleged to have been recruited in the immigrant housing estates around Lyons by Ali Touchent, alias Tarek, the 30-year-old ringleader of the French GIA network who remains at large.

The attacks in France were carried out, the GIA said at the time, in retaliation for French support for the Algerian Government. The bombings brought Algeria's violent insurgency to French territory for the first time since Islamic militants began their campaign in 1992.

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YOSHIKAZU TSUNO / AFP

Syohei Nozawa, centre, president of Yamaichi Securities, and Shoji Saotome, left, its chairman, bow before a press conference called to announce the liquidation

US pledges 'doomsday' fix

Bronwen Maddox reports from the Vancouver summit

PRESIDENT CLINTON and other Pacific Rim leaders, racing to calm global fears about a "financial doomsday", yesterday pledged to take immediate steps to prevent the Asian crisis spreading.

But the unfamiliar gloom of financial turmoil hung over the opening of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (Apec) forum in Vancouver. The leaders, shunning the meeting's traditional celebration of the "Asian economic miracle", said it would take massive financial injections and potentially explosive political reforms to prevent the crisis worsening.

"The turmoil ... cannot be waved away by brave talk that it is just a passing difficulty. It is a wake-up call for all our countries," said President Ramos of the Philippines. Thailand, the first country shaken by the crisis, gave a warning that if Apec's response were "anything less than large and dramatic", the predicament would worsen. In two days of talks, leaders of 18 countries will throw their support behind a financial rescue effort led by the International Monetary Fund, aided by America and Japan. Mr Clinton played down talk of catastrophe in the wake of Asian bank failures, currency devaluations and stock market plunges, calling the problems "a few little glitches in the road. We're working through them."

With an eye to his home audience, he emphasised that the IMF deal would not demand an enormous American contribution. "Our commitment is limited but significant enough," he said.

After the collapse yesterday of Yamaichi Securities, Japan's fourth-largest broker, Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, pledged to stabilise his country's financial system, shaken by bad loans and a plunging stock market. The Bank of Japan also moved fast to bolster confidence, saying it would offer Yamaichi loans and provide funds to shore up the country's financial system. South Korea's decision on Friday to bite the bullet and ask the IMF for a $20 billion (£11.9 billion) bailout of its stricken banks helped to ease concerns that its financial woes would spread. But President Kim Young Sam said the austerity package would demand years of "bone-carving pain". Thailand and Indonesia have already subscribed to multimillion-dollar IMF-led rescue packages. It was inevitable that the financial crisis, which has spread in the past week from some of the fastest-growing countries of South-East Asia to the mature giants of South Korea and Japan, would consume Apec's attention. But American officials were determined to carry on with business as usual, pressing for more trade liberalisation.

However, as bilateral meetings began, America was drumming up only lukewarm support for a pact to liberalise financial markets. The World Trade Organisation has set a December 12 deadline for a deal. John Howard, the Australian Prime Minister, stood out in supporting the US position, calling on leaders to look beyond the current crisis and help to prevent future shocks.

Apec members also looked set to reach grudging agreement on eventual liberalisation of nine markets: chemicals, timber, medical equipment, telecom equipment, energy, environmental products, jewelry, fish and toys. America is pressing Japan for more access to airline routes and for less red tape. Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said the recent sharp rise in the American trade deficit with Japan may hurt relations between the two, and urged Japan to boost demand at home. The trade gap surged by 7 per cent to $5.1 billion in September, according to new figures.

However, Mr Clinton, who elevated Apec to the status of a summit in 1993, has been undermined by the recent refusal of Congress to give him "fast-track" trade negotiating powers, or to give an extra $3.5 billion to the IMF.

The sole ebullient figure yesterday was President Jiang Zemin of China, even though he was pursued around rainy Vancouver streets by hundreds of chanting human rights demonstrators. Mr Jiang said that China's economy was in excellent shape and a force for stability in the region.

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Drama touches lives of millions

Japan's economic bubble has been pricked by a series of disasters, writes

Joanna Pitman

THE drama of Japan's biggest corporate failure since the Second World War is being played out remorselessly on television.

As compelling as any royal wedding or funeral, the events of this week will touch the lives of tens of millions of Japanese people, from farmers to housewives, from gangsters to businessmen and schoolchildren.

Less than ten years ago, Yamaichi Securities bestrode the world's capital markets like a colossus as one of the country's Big Four brokers. The Big Four were the biggest, best and most profitable brokers in the world.

Japan's stock market was roaring ahead, creating vast and easy profits for the Big Four, for their favoured clients and for investors. The four firms threw regular lavish parties to impress foreign and Japanese clients, dotted with geisha hostesses, ice sculptures that melted away at £500-an-hour and mountains of the most overtly expensive sushi.

On New Year's Eve 1989 the Big Four decided, as a little private game, to put their collective might together to see if they could push the stock market's Nikkei average, the barometer of Japan's financial and economic health, over 40,000. They failed. The economic bubble — a five-year rush from 1985 of colossal speculative growth based on a strong yen and cheap credit — was pricked when Yasushi Mieno, an austere career bureaucrat, took over as the Central Bank's Governor and raised interest rates.

Over the next few years as he repeatedly raised rates, share prices more than halved, land prices dropped by three fifths and the share and property boom was shown up as a conjuring trick.

The slump affected all sectors of society. The heads of securities firms resigned for making under-the-table payments to clients who had lost money. Gangsters were caught with large wads of increasingly worthless shares and heavily indebted small companies started going bankrupt. At the bottom of the pile, thousands of small investors, lured by the legions of formidable securities salesmen from Yamaichi and its competitors, saw hard-earned savings disappearing.

The economic gloom was accompanied by other disasters, some natural, that became linked collectively in the public imagination. In February 1995 the biggest earthquake in 70 years struck the southern city of Kobe, killing more than 6,000 people and revealing dire inadequacies in the leadership of the Government and emergency services.

A few months later, the Aum Shinrikyo religious cult decided to experiment with some of its chemical weapons and released small quantities of deadly sarin gas on the Tokyo subway during rush hour. To deepen the sense of gloom this year, Yamaichi Securities, which with 100 years of history had counted itself as a relatively venerable member of the broking fraternity, found itself caught up in a pay-off scandal with the three other big brokers.

> ‘Yamaichi bestrode the world's capital markets like a colossus’

The company's former president and five other executives are among a host of brokerage industry officials who were arrested for making illegal payments to *sokaiya* (extortionist gangsters) to prevent them from disclosing embarrassing information at the annual shareholder meeting.

The potential implications of Yamaichi Securities' closure are dramatic. Many will suspect that the other brokers have the same problems. But the aim of the Finance Ministry will be to avoid a collapse in investor confidence in the wider Japanese financial system during the crucial run-up to its "Big Bang" deregulation reforms scheduled for next year.

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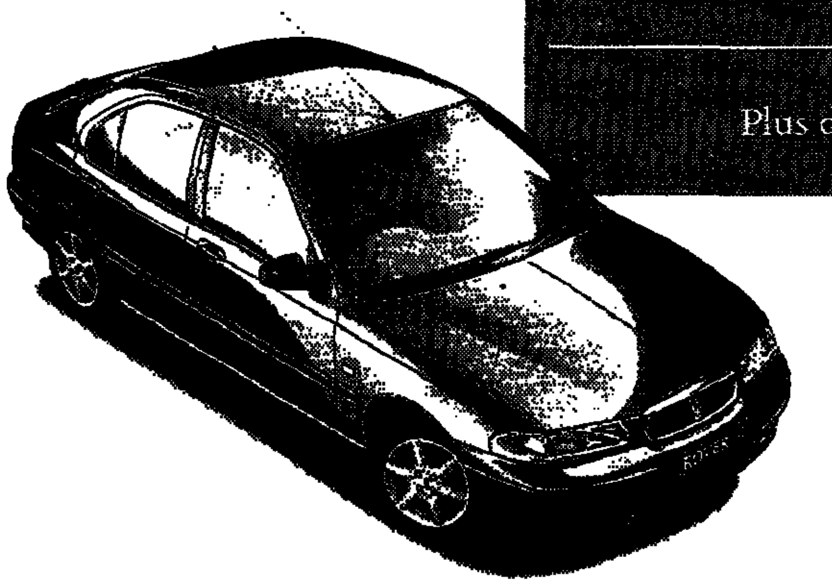

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RELAX.

Clinton's hearing aids put him back in touch with press

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

HIS weight and cholesterol are both down, his injured knee has fully recovered and his energy level is high, but at 51 President Clinton now wears a symbol of advancing age: a pair of hearing aids.

Mr Clinton was diagnosed last month as having high-frequency hearing loss in both ears, making it difficult for him to hear in a crowded room, or even when heckled during a speech. Last week he was fitted with tiny cone-shaped devices that hide discreetly in his auditory canals. They are noticeable only by those with a direct view into the ear.

He was wearing them in Vancouver *yesterday during* the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum. "They're working well," said his spokesman, Mike McCurry, who said they might even lead to the President hearing reporters' questions with greater clarity. Then again, most presidents have remarkably selective hearing when fielding awkward press inquiries.

Mr Clinton is wearing the aids for short periods as he gets used to them and will gradually increase the amount of time he keeps them in his ears. He has complained for years about hearing loss, and during his latest physical check-up his doctors found a "slight worsening".

The damage is believed to have been caused by music, including his own saxophone-playing, and by exposure to hunting rifles fired close to his ears when he was growing up in Arkansas.

Now that the President has *admitted his* impairment in public, other victims of hearing damage want him to lead a crusade to save the ears of today's Generation X. They are considered at even more serious risk from listening to music at full blast through headphones. The idea was proposed by Kathy Peck, whose hearing was damaged by playing in a punk rock band. She is director of a non-profit group in San Francisco, Hearing Education and Awareness for Rockers (Hear). It was established with financial help from Pete Townsend of the British rock group The Who.

He is among a number of rock musicians concerned about hearing loss among themselves and their audiences. Ms Peck said that ear plugs were often worn nowadays by musicians and disc jockeys, and there was a growing market for headsets equipped with a built-in switch to reduce sound levels.

Hearing-aid makers are rejoicing at gaining such an important role model as the President. Now only about one in five Americans with hearing loss seek help; but almost everyone with failing eyesight is prepared to wear glasses.

GREG GIBSON / AP

President Clinton in a noisy jazz session with the saxophonist Joe Henderson

Baby boomers pay price for all those years of 'unsafe sax'

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

PRESIDENT CLINTON is one of 28 million people in the United States who suffer from hearing loss. Most experts expect the numbers to soar as today's disco generation grows older.

Modest hearing loss is common among the middle-aged, especially those such as Mr Clinton who spent years playing in a band. His recent exposure to helicopter noise cannot have helped.

The fine hair cells in the ear *slowly die with age, squeezing* the hearing range at both extremes. Loss of high frequencies, which is what President Clinton suffers, makes it harder for him to hear people talking in a crowded room.

There is a genetic component in hearing loss, with some people surviving unscathed noise levels that would quickly deafen others.

"High-frequency hearing loss is mostly due to noise exposure, usually as a teenager listening to rock music or playing in bands, such as he did," said Dr James Suen, of the National Naval Medical Centre in Bethesda, where Mr Clinton was examined. Jokes about the President's failure to practise "safe sax" apart, his minor infirmity anchors him even more firmly as the representative of the baby boomer generation, which grew up at a time when amplified music was becoming louder and louder.

The Walkman generation is likely to suffer even greater hearing loss when they reach Mr Clinton's age — he is 51. Earphones can easily generate *sound levels of* 110 decibels, with nightclubs reaching levels of 140 decibels.

These are far above the levels permitted in the workplace. American standards indicate that continuous exposure to noise over 85 decibels will eventually harm hearing. At 95 decibels, four hours' exposure a day will eventually cause damage, while at 115 decibels, just 15 minutes a day will cause hearing loss.

Audiologists are seeing more and more people with moderate hearing loss. The process is painless and permanent.

White House hopes snub to Netanyahu will hasten peace

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON
AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE White House yesterday admitted that a series of snubs to Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, were designed to increase pressure on him for rapid progress on Middle East peace.

America's weakening support among Arab states during the recent showdown with Iraq has in part been blamed by Washington on the stagnation of peace talks in the region. Officials said that President Clinton's refusal to see Mr Netanyahu during his visit to the United States last week and the White House welcome on Friday for Shimon Peres, the former Israeli Prime Minister, were intended as signals of increasing frustration.

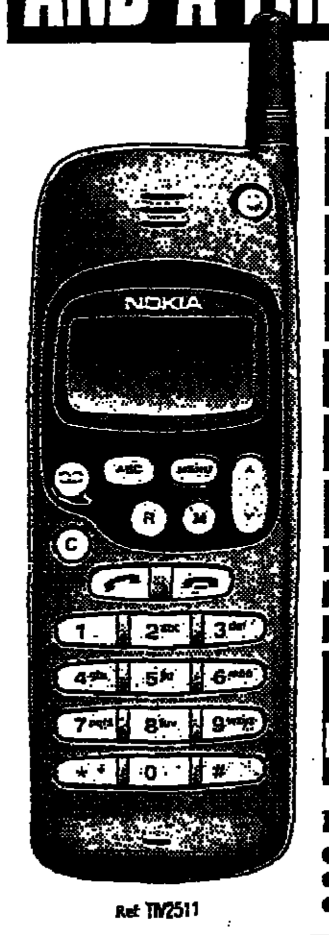
The United States wants Israel to announce a "serious and credible" withdrawal of troops from the West Bank, *originally scheduled for September* under peace accords with the Palestinians. During a recent meeting with Mr Netanyahu in London, Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, made it clear that the past 11 months had failed to produce the required momentum necessary for future peace.

During a White House ceremony at which Mr Clinton became the first recipient of a peace award named after Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Israeli Prime Minister, the President pointedly extolled the virtues of Rabin and Mr Peres while making no mention of Mr Netanyahu. Israeli newspapers carried accounts of private conversations between Mr Clinton and Mr Peres in which he is said to have expressed frustration with the Israeli Government.

Mr. Netanyahu faced pressure of a different kind at home yesterday when the Land of Israel Front, which has at least 17 supporters in the 120-seat Knesset where the Prime Minister has a 66-54 majority, threatened to call a no-confidence motion against the Government.

The threat came after an Israel Radio report that Mr *Netanyahu was planning to* give a further 6-8 per cent of the occupied West Bank back to the Palestinians. The front accused the Prime Minister of buckling under US pressure.

Leading members of Labour and Meretz, left-wing opposition parties, said there would be a general election next year, halfway through Mr Netanyahu's term.



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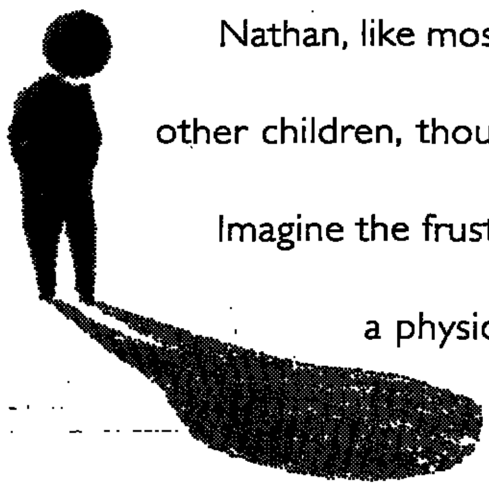

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'I don't try to smile any more. They don't come'

Chris suffers from autism. He and his wife tell **Anjana Ahuja** how it affects their marriage

PETER TRIEVNOR

Chris and Gisela: a visit to a psychologist confirmed their suspicions. They are convinced that the visit, and subsequent advice, saved their marriage

Most people would not give Chris more than two minutes at a party. Engage him in conversation, and he seems aloof, uninterested or, worse, haughty. During our chat in the sitting room of his semi-detached home in Hertfordshire, he fiddles with his fingers and flicks through an electronics magazine. He is very polite but there is little eye contact and few smiles. "I don't try to smile any more," he says wistfully. "They just don't come."

From the time he went to boarding school, aged 11, until a year ago, Chris, a 32-year-old computer support specialist, resigned himself to a life of isolation. "Every time a person walked away from me, I felt like a failure. I would see people talking to each other, and I knew that I couldn't be like them. I felt, and still do feel, quite envious."

Even though he managed to marry a student from his Russian course at Manchester University, his behaviour began to affect his marriage. At first, Gisela, 41, thought Chris was endearingly eccentric. She recalls: "When we met, my first impression was that he was very good at Russian but extremely shy."

Despite his awkwardness, Gisela says, the pair became very close because he provided support when her first marriage was ending. They wed three years ago. She recalls: "Chris didn't get down on one knee or anything like that. It was more a rational decision. Chris was applying to read medicine, and we thought that 'wife' would look better on the application form. And we knew we wanted to be together.

"But later on, he just didn't seem to know how to respond if I was upset. It got so bad that I would go into the kitchen and find an old piece of crockery to throw. We talked about parting because I was becoming very lonely."

> 'He didn't seem to know how to respond if I was upset'

Her suspicions were realised, Gisela reveals in a Channel 4 documentary to mark Autism Awareness Week, when she read *An Anthropologist on Mars*, by Oliver Sacks. "I couldn't believe it. I was reading about Chris." The chapter that so absorbed her was a case study of Asperger's syndrome, a mild form of autism. The syndrome, which affects more than 200,000 adults and children in the UK, manifests itself in two main ways — an awkwardness in social interactions and an almost obsessive desire for order. The condition makes it impossible to read and react to emotional cues from others.

Gisela recognised both traits immediately. Chris was perfectly capable at work, because he knew what he was talking about. But he was hopeless at social gatherings.

Chris seemed unable to muster the insignificant, frivolous and often empty chatter and body language that sustains conversation. The punctuation of human interaction — the occasional nod, smile, thoughtful gaze, raised eyebrow, hum of agreement — was simply missing from his vocabulary. That was why people found him difficult to deal with. As a result, his friendships had been forged through common and practical interests rather than through camaraderie. His late ambition to become a doctor, a job in which social skills are as important as academic ability, was thwarted because his three interviews were disastrous. "I think I came across as monotonous," he says. He will not apply again.

Other parts of the puzzle began to fall into place, too. Chris had always hated boarding school, where the regime clashed with his own sense of order. He loathed living at such close quarters with his schoolmates, who were for ever pestering him to join their games. He immersed himself in computers and chemistry to escape both them and his schoolmasters, who regarded him as very bright but extremely reserved.

Gisela remembered how "clinical" his student room was. And now, she realised, his preoccupation with neatness was surfacing again. Chris was becoming increasingly irritated by the "organised chaos" at home.

Today, the chaos is being kept in check, although George, their five-year-old son, is crying, the telephone is ringing and Olivia, Gisela's vivacious 16-year-old daughter from her first marriage, has popped her head round the door to say she is off to a friend's house. Chris uses the distractions to sneak another look at his magazine.

A degree of untidiness, Gisela points out, is inevitable given the demands on her time. In addition to a full-time job as a civil servant, Gisela looks after Olivia and two sons from her first marriage, George, and three cats. But Chris still found it intolerable. He says: "If I came home and found that the kids hadn't washed up or tidied their rooms, I would go mad." He disliked the hordes of teenagers that crowded the house when Olivia, or her boisterous brother, Henry, 17, were at home (Hugh, 19, is at university). But his enthusiasm for orderliness seemed excessive. One incident that particularly exasperated Gisela was when the couple, both lovers of classical music, replaced their vinyl records with CDs. Chris decided to file them according to the composer's date of birth. "I didn't know these birthdates, so I couldn't find anything," Gisela says. She made him rearrange them.

> Chris can now brave some events such as a pub quiz

Wouldn't it be more sensible, I ask Chris, to order them alphabetically according to the composer's name? He looks blank for a minute and says, in a manner not unlike Dr Spock from *Star Trek*: "But that wouldn't be... logical." Why? "If you know when the composer was born, you know what style of music you're getting." Gisela rolls her eyes.

A two-hour consultation with a psychologist confirmed their suspicions. The couple, who do not want their surname used, are convinced that the visit, and subsequent advice, saved their marriage. But, before that, there was uncertainty and apprehension. Gisela vividly remembers waiting to see the consultant: "It sounds terrible but I felt like a loser both ways. On the one hand, if he didn't have Asperger's it would mean I had married someone socially inferior. And if he *did* have Asperger's, I would be denied the intuitive side of our relationship."

After initial feelings of relief, Chris felt overwhelmed by depression, because he felt doomed to a life of "never fitting in". He had suffered depression before at university, but those negative emotions dissipated after meeting Gisela. The diagnosis seemed a backward step.

From Gisela's point of view, however, it rescued the relationship. "I realised that Chris simply couldn't read me, and that's why he was not responding. Now I spell out how I'm feeling, and he is learning how to respond. It has allowed us to make a fresh start." The diagnosis has helped Chris's parents, too, who used to wonder why the eldest of their two sons remained silent at the dinner table.

The process of grasping the grammar of emotion is a slow, painful and sometimes touchingly funny affair for Chris, who thinks very carefully and often looks to his wife for inspiration before answering questions.

For example, if Gisela says she is upset or tired or run-down, Chris will retort: "Well, I'm sorry to hear that." Unfortunately, Gisela reveals, his well-intentioned responses can emerge in an incongruously bright tone of voice. "It can make him sound rather odd," Gisela laughs. "But at least I know that he is making the effort. And he is wonderful at doing practical things, once he is told somebody needs help.

"Now, instead of reading his reactions, I try to look behind them. He is much easier to understand."

Chris mentions several times that he is not a robot without feeling. "I have a full emotional life in here," he says, touching his chest, "but it's the external expression that's lacking." He looks slightly embarrassed as Gisela reveals that Chris "had tears in his eyes" when George took his first, faltering steps.

The teenagers are still a challenge. Chris is learning to understand their sociable lives but says the situation is made more delicate because of his status as step-parent. He says: "I feel our relationship should be better, but I don't really know what to do about it or if there is anything I can do." Aided by medication to ease anxiety, Chris can now brave some social events, such as pub quizzes. Gisela has resigned herself to attending other engagements alone. "I know I'll have a better time," she says, matter-of-factly.

In a marriage, gestures and subtle signals sometimes express far more than words ever can. Gisela doesn't seem to mind that she and her husband will never develop this rich and intimate dialogue. She points out that no relationship is perfect. "I recall someone saying that people with Asperger's never marry," she says. "OK, so Chris is never going to be wildly romantic, but who is? At least I know he has the will to make this marriage work. How many wives can say that?"

- Equinox: *Mindreaders, Channel 4, Monday, 9pm; National Autistic Society, 0171-833 2299*

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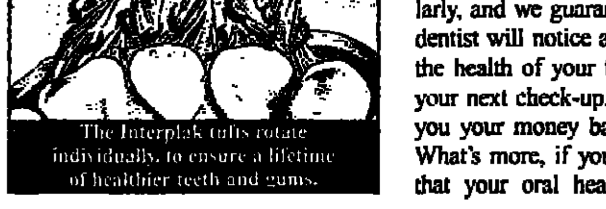

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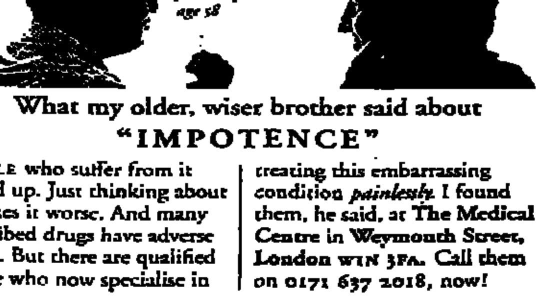
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Sex, sequins and Mrs Slocombe

Sitcom star John Inman is word-perfect in panto — but he's less certain of his lines behind the scenes. Interview by **Bill Frost**

KING COLLECTION

"Mother Goose was an early role model. I saw the pantomime and became infatuated with her part — it wasn't just dressing up, there was some real acting involved"

As a child, he stockpiled sequins, perfected the art of dressmaking and idolised Betty Grable; from that defining moment when the young John Inman threaded the first needle, his parents knew the boy was never to be a professional footballer.

His mother, still going strong at 87 and living in Blackpool, was a hairdresser. So was his late father — "a heavy drinker who made me my first model theatre".

At one time his parents had five shops in Preston. They then gave up the business to buy an eight-bedroom boarding house in Blackpool. The seaside was infinitely preferable to a mill town and the lure of the greasepaint was already strong, he says. But Inman seems reluctant to talk about any aspect of his life in detail.

John Inman: home bird

For an actor who trades on *stage in broad indiscretion* and *double entendre*, he is surprisingly po-faced in real life. It is almost as though he resents, and perhaps fears, intruders.

Home is a refuge and his private life is to be guarded jealously. Journalists, even if expected, are made to feel a *little uncomfortable. There is* no cup of tea, not even the offer of a seat. The interview must be carried out on his terms — two hours offered, less than one provided before a limousine arrives to take him to a television studio.

It is a disappointment to realise that a performer who can manufacture laughter so easily has little to offer when off-stage. I was looking forward to meeting Inman — who is, after all, one of our national treasures — and rather taken aback to discover a man who seems cold and rather dismissive.

He trusts his mother and a few close friends but perhaps the rest of the world is to be regarded with suspicion. So, stick to the obvious questions: how did you get started in showbusiness?

> 'I have a few good friends I can turn to if I get low'

"Mother Goose was an early role model. I saw the pantomime and became infatuated with her part — it wasn't just dressing up, there was some real acting involved," he says.

Born in Preston in 1935, Inman was to leave school at 15 and become a window dresser at a Blackpool outfitters. He saw the job as a staging post to the limelight and spent his spare time appearing in the local rep.

"I made all my own costumes because I couldn't afford to buy stage clothes. I suppose it had been a childhood ambition to act, to create an illusion.

"I thought Betty Grable was just marvellous. She always looked perfect; never a hair out of place or a crooked seam."

The lines are delivered with characteristic high camp inflection. Clearly Inman has used them before when explaining his childhood passions. He says that he has always felt comfortable in frocks, the more sequins the better. But Inman admits that he is less comfortable playing himself out of costume.

"I don't know if I am gay or not, I don't think about sex a great deal. I have a few good friends I can turn to if I get low and I know I can trust them."

Although pantomime is his great love, television brought him financial security and a £600,000 mews house near Little Venice in West London. "But give me the stage rather than the studio and the cameras any day," he says. "I've never liked television rehearsals. I am one of those performers that says 'let's just get on with it' and it's my job to raise a laugh out of somebody else's lines."

At 62, he seems genuinely surprised that Mr Humphries, the mincing menswear assistant he created for *Are You Being Served?*, has taken America by storm more than 13 years after the BBC closed down the Grace Brothers department store. He is regularly mobbed by young fans — many of them gay — from Manhattan to Miami.

"*Mr Humphries has* been very good to me. But I can't help wondering why these people are still wanting me to call out 'I'm free'.

"It's astonishing that the series goes into 75 per cent of American homes. In San Francisco a while ago hundreds of people paid to have *tea with me. I went from table* to table, chatting and answering questions about Mrs Slocombe's pussy.

"It was exhausting. I had to go and lie down in a darkened room afterwards. The odd thing is that everyone knows the shows better than I do. I suppose it was all so long ago.

"They'll ask me what an episode was all about and I have absolutely no idea! They don't know half the cast have died. The success of *Are You Being Served?* means I'll never have to fear the breadline again. But, for all that, I will never stop working."

He still sees former members of staff from Grace Brothers and enjoys the camaraderie. They are all surprised that, even now, there are some at the BBC who still *consider some of the lines* a little risqué.

"Wendy Richard, who now of course stars in *EastEnders*, is a close friend. I suppose we both owe some of our success to *Are You Being Served?* and are both surprised that quips from the Seventies were cut from the re-runs.

"Mollie Sugden (the blue-rinsed Mrs Slocombe) is another member of the cast that I keep in contact with. We used to say of her: a mother first, a cook second, an actress third, but always a good *friend. That remains true to* this day. You build bonds with people that are never broken no matter how infrequently you see each other."

Other people's laughter is a tonic, he says. "If I have made people forget their own troubles, even for a moment, then I have achieved my goal."

At the age of 20 he was doing summer farces in Blackpool before getting his big break in pantomime as an ugly sister in *Cinderella* at Coventry. He also worked with the late Sid James, did small television parts, but was essentially a man for two seasons: summer shows and panto.

"It's been a full life — very enjoyable. I have been lucky enough to succeed at what I love and what I do best," he told an interviewer some years ago.

However, Inman is curiously subdued when we meet, almost depressed. His featuring role next week in the *Channel 4* series *Pantoland* has done little to improve his mood.

"During next Monday's programme I am shown on camera in a dress, but minus wig and no make-up. I look very strange, like someone from a horror film," he says, irritably. "The whole point of pantomime is to create a character, and that's particularly important for a dame. Down the years I have never been photographed before I was ready and I don't think illusions should be shattered like *this.* "*There is no point in* wearing a woman's costume if people are made aware that the character is not really a woman. I've been doing pantomime for more than 35 years and this has never happened before."

Inman genuinely cares about this most peculiarly British art form. "There's nowhere else in the world that this blend of music-hall, slapstick and so much more could *flourish and we should be* proud of pantomime."

His London home is as ordered and attractive as any of the window settings he dressed in his youth. Ronny, his assistant, shields the actor from intruders and ensures that authorised visitors wipe their feet on the doormat.

"I'm a home bird," Inman says. "I don't go out clubbing and I don't like being expected to run into rooms shouting *'I'm free' — would you? At 62,* I'm heading towards the age when I can have a bus pass and I am quite content with my life — nothing is missing, there is nothing left that I have to fight for."

Are You Being Served? is taking America by storm

His mother would like him to have married and had children. Indeed, there was a time when Inman talked of starting a family.

In the early Nineties he collapsed with chronic bronchitis and his own survival became paramount. "I'd been in pantomime and picked up a very bad cold. Foolishly, I tried to work through it. But one day I couldn't breathe, it was very frightening."

He kicked his 60-a-day smoking habit while in hospital and put on two stone after doctors prescribed steroids to ease his chest problems. Despite dieting, he has not lost the weight and still occasionally pines for a cigarette.

"That was in 1993 and there have been days since when I *have so hungry* that I could have eaten the table. Food is still a big weakness and so is Beefeater gin."

He has suffered chest problems since and remains on medication. "The doctors told me a third attack would be my last. It was frightening — a brush with mortality."

His comfort now is performing. "I love the stage — it goes right back to my childhood. I was knee-high to a grasshopper when I made the decision and everybody thought I was mad. Now it is so wonderful to *walk through a stage door and* know you belong — these people are all members of your family."

He shakes his head a little too vigorously when asked if he is ever lonely in the luxurious seclusion of his home. "Remaining single is a decision I made some time ago — I'm married to my career. It's very important to me, the biggest chunk of my life.

"I'm perfectly happy being *alone, though I don't want to* spend my days in a little attic room all by myself. It's just that I'm far more in love with acting than I could ever have been with a permanent partner. That may sound selfish, but I have to look after myself. I don't want the responsibility of caring for someone else."

● Pantoland, *8.30pm, next Monday, Channel 4.* Are You Being Served? *is being repeated on BBC1 at 5.30pm on Saturdays.*

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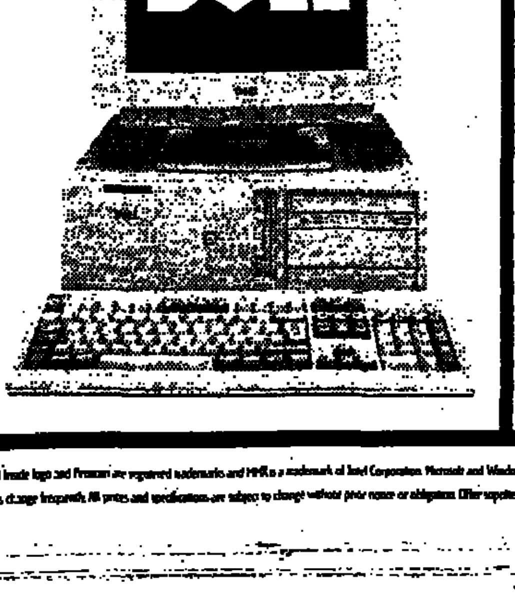

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We really are rolling in money

Anatole Kaletsky on the dilemma facing Mr Brown

If Britain has the best-performing economy in Europe, as we keep reading in the papers, why does *there seem to be less money* for schools to buy textbooks and hire teachers? If Britain is a model economy viewed envi*ously by its neighbours*, why must the sick wait in agony for months, or even years, before they can have their operations?

If Tony Blair has a new vision of social cohesion which blends the compassion of Nye Bevan with the efficiency of Margaret Thatcher, why has his Government run out of money to continue Tory programmes for supporting the disabled and the unemployed? And if this new model Britain has the strongest public finances in Europe, effortlessly meeting the Maastricht treaty constraints, why can't the *Government afford to* keep open the theatres, universities and museums which survived and thrived in the days when Britain was an economic basket-case?

The answers to these questions — or, more accurately, the single answer — will be clearly implicit in Gordon Brown's *Pre-Budget Report* today. That answer is simply that Mr Blair and the Chancellor do not really want to do *any of these things*. They do not want to rebuild Britain's schools. They do not want to shorten NHS waiting lists. They do not want to support the poor and disabled. And they do not want to preserve Britain's cultural and intellectual standards.

These statements may sound outrageous, but the Chancellor will present incon*trovertible evidence about his* true motivations this afternoon. The pre-Budget statement will show that national income is, indeed, growing strongly and will continue to do so. It will show that the new deregulated Britain is, indeed, a model economy in its simultaneous achievement of low inflation and falling (although *still high*) *unemployment*. And it will show that Britain's public finances are the strongest in Europe, with a very *small* government deficit, which will turn into a rapidly growing surplus from next year onwards.

Under these circumstances, government claims that "there is no money" for improvements in health, education or other public spending programmes are quite simply false. There is plenty of money *in the Treasury — a probable* surplus of about £3 billion next year, rising to perhaps £20 billion annually by 2001/02. *The question is how the Gov*ernment wants to spend all this money.

So far, it has been insulated from this question by its electoral promise to stick to Tory spending plans. But this pledge runs out in April 1999. From today onwards, as his pre-Budget statement looks towards to economic conditions in 1999 and foreshadows the public spending decisions that will have to be taken next autumn, Mr Brown will have to give some good reasons for maintaining his iron grip on the public purse.

His main argument today — that any Treasury surpluses should be used to repay public debt for the benefit of future generations — is only partly valid. The national debt left *behind by the Conservatives* (at just over 50 per cent of GDP) is modest by both historic and by international *standards*.

Mr Brown must also recognise that "future generations" might gain more from improvements in education than they would from reductions in the national debt. The real point, however, is that "fiscal probity", like every other objective of economic management, is not an absolute virtue; in economic policy everything should be treated as a matter of degree.

Even if Mr Brown wants to *impose a modest squeeze* on demand to prevent inflationary overheating, and thereby encourage the Bank of Eng*land to reduce interest rates*, he will have to admit that considerable extra funds could still be made available for public spending in the years ahead.

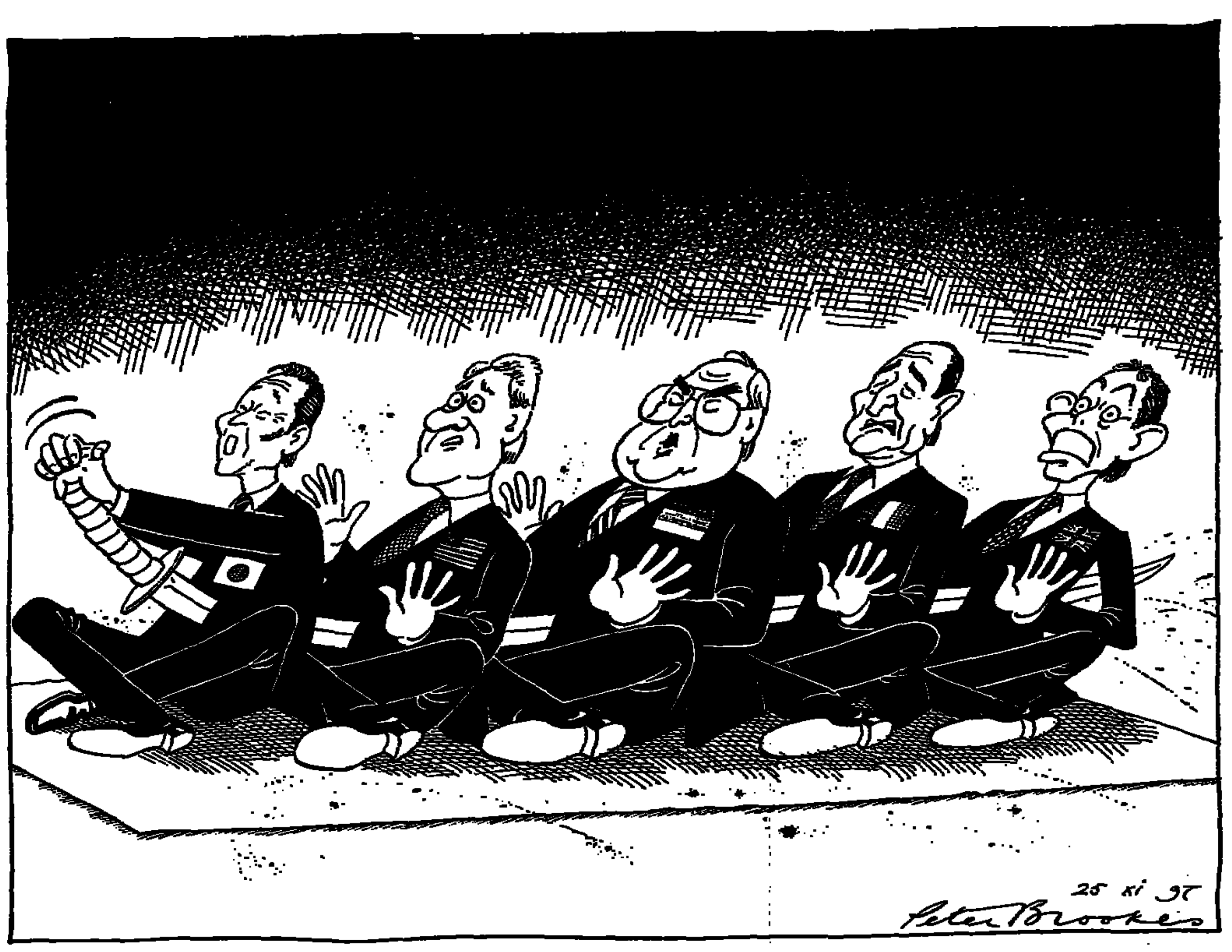
Furthermore, as the end of the public spending moratorium in 1999 approaches, Mr Brown will have to *acknowledge that* the present level of taxation cannot be taken for granted. There is plenty of scope to increase revenues without breaking the pre-election promises on income tax rates and VAT. That the public would support higher taxes to pay for better health and education services is confirmed by every survey of opinion, including the most *important one — the general* election itself.

Claims that there is no money to spend are simply false

Polls conducted just before the May election showed clearly that voters expected Labour to levy higher taxes than the Tories, and also to spend more on public services. The landslide victory for Labour (along with the Liberal Democrats, who openly advocated higher taxes) can therefore be seen as a mandate to shift the balance of *public policy towards higher* spending and taxes.

Finally, as 1999 approaches, new Labour will have to turn to the most fundamental question that any government confronts. Even if it does not increase the £320 billion annual public spending total, it will be held responsible for the way that money is shared. *Should Britain's spending* on health be the lowest in Europe, while spending on defence is the highest? Should pensions *and child benefits be rising*, while disability allowances are being cut? Should Peter Mandelson be building his *Millennium Dome*, while Chris Smith is closing down the English National Opera? Should we be cutting back on university research, while paying for the new European fighter?

These are the kinds of questions that politicians do not like to answer. But from this week they must start being asked.



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Peter Brookes

It's our duty to be dull

Strip away the guitars and glitter and every family saga is much the same

Libby Purves

After the death of Kurt Cobain of Nirvana, the Australian singer Michael Hutchence of INXS reportedly said: "Pop eats its young, that's for sure."

Now it has eaten him: another lonely, tacky, confused death sets down his name in the lengthening roll of rock's children who lived fast and died young. *The industry which* loves romantic death will proudly chronicle his drugs and liquor and women and defiant dicta like "I'm not going to live my life in a way that's deemed appropriate" and "I just do my thing, I can't help it". Tribal elders shrug: what else do you expect?

The equally rackety Paula Yates, who was to marry him in Tahiti and who is dyeing her wedding-dress *black for the funeral, will be offered* brief pity. About fifteen minutes' worth, if that. The reporters who joined her plane to Australia seemed to have trouble balancing their decent instinct for sympathy against reports of wild grieving behaviour, stalking up and down the plane, throwing champagne over British Airways staff and shouting accusations that her divorced husband Bob Geldof "murdered" Hutchence by making things difficult over his children's travelling with their mother.

Reminiscences by those who knew (or interviewed) the couple have veered between displays of sympathy for the dead young musician and headshaking accounts of the way the couple conducted their lives, with Paula giving interviews to the press about her lover while lying in a rumpled bed ostentatiously littered with handcuffs. Even the presence in this wreckage of four children will *not hold off the furies:* some Middle England spokesmen have never forgiven the poor woman her children's names, from Fifi Trixiebelle down to *Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily (though* come to think of it "Tiger" is rather a nice nickname for a baby). In the first hours after the news I heard half-a-dozen voices opining that the couple were aliens from Planet Rock: weirdos, exhibitionists, nothing like us.

Yet tone down the showbiz glitter a few shades and the story is all too familiar. Drugs and drink and celebrity don't change human nature; all they do is to loosen the bonds of decorum. The chaos of the Yates-Geldof-Hutchence menage, frankly, is not all that remote from the less public chaos in tens of thousands of other *modern* British households. Every detail is oddly familiar, even down to the antidepressants all over the lonely hotel room floor and the *row over who will spend Christmas* where.

Strip away the guitars and handcuffs and the story gets more recognisable. Girl marries boy, has three children and resolves to be the best of mothers and give them an "Enid Blyton childhood". Bonds are formed, a family created. At the same time, neither parent consents to become middle-aged, and the woman *wants to be not only a superb mother* but a success in her own right and, moreover, forever youthful and sexy. These are not rare ambitions: ask any women's magazine.

The marriage becomes less idyllic. Wife meets another *man — through* work, naturally — who assures her that she is indeed youthful and sexy. She likes him *better than the familiar* (and by now rather curmudgeonly) husband. They begin a passionate affair and throw in their lot together. The mother is still devoted to the three children and so is their father, but in the heat of the moment this does not seem to be a problem.

As time goes on, rows ensue. The father is reluctant to have his rights and influence eroded by another man. A baby is born to the *new* couple, which in turn cements them together in a relationship which is harder to break than before. For *short periods of time an artificial* family forms: the three children of the broken marriage are to be bridesmaids at the new one, and move to another area (in this case, continent). The new family looks shiny: as Yates and Hutchence joked: "Things are so nice at home, it's like the bloody Waltons."

But it is built on sand: with no foundations of duty or self-sacrifice or careful compromise or boring old restraint, it starts to quake. The passion of two impulsive people is not cement enough for a structure as heavy and lopsided as a family. Clean *new* lives are made impossible by pressure from the past in the form of the first father. Everybody feels aggrieved: there are rows over money and houses, talk of *"emotional warfare"* and an "absolute bloody nightmare"; resentment, rage, friends taking sides, flying accusations about "mind games" and vengefulness and unreasonable behaviour.

And in this most modern of confusions, ancient symbols rise to make things worse. In the uncertainty that still surrounds Hutchence's last hours, one recurring report is *that he had just spoken to his lover* — who wanted to join him but would not leave her children — and argued with Bob Geldof about his children's proposed Christmas in Australia.

Quite a few families will identify with that *mess*. A woman who has children by two living fathers is never going to be a free spirit. She will have to *wheel and deal and compromise* and adjust her place and style of living to be fair to both sets.

A man who feels wronged by his wife but loves his children is never justified in venting his rage on her, much as he longs and may deserve to, because that will damage his children. And any man who falls in love with a mother ought to realise that he is being dealt a marked card.

Children, *in short, complicate* everything. They are the catalyst which turns wild free youth into cautious middle-age; which makes us *learn to avert our eyes from sexy* strangers, curb our dreams, stay sober in case the baby wakes, miss the rave-up because of parents' evening and look both ways when crossing the road. If for some reason this catalytic action fails to work it nearly always ends in tears. But don't pour scorn on poor Paula; she is not unique.

It is surprising how little we acknowledge this. Even thirty years ago, before the 1960s had spread outward from the King's Road, it was still common thinking that the first baby marked the moment when you put away childish things yourself. "Responsibilities" were much touted, and even hairstyles and clothes were expected to change. I can remember shocked muttering as a child in Suffolk when a young couple pushed out their pram wearing matching skin-tight jeans — and the poor kids were only about 20.

The wartime generation informed us that *the dignity of procreation* should lead naturally to the cutting of wild hair and the adoption of A-line skirts and Sta-Prest slacks. Great odium was heaped on any mother, in particular, who dyed her hair blonde or went to nightclubs. These were *unmotherly things to do*.

Well, there was a lot of nonsense in all that. Writers in recent years (myself among them) have said to *women petrified of their first confinement*: "Hey, loosen up, just because you've got a baby it doesn't mean you aren't the same girl you used to be." My own lament at the end of the 1970s was about those gruesome clinic worksheets with their "specimen daily routines" insisting on *06.30 feed; 07.00 Mother rinse nappies; 07.15 Mother prepares vegetables for puree;* etc., on the ground that they never said things like: *18.30 Mother dumps baby on neighbour and nips out for a pint and game of darts.*

The old stiffness needed challenging, at least in small superficial things; but after a decade of wild-child mothers, wandering fathers and rocketing divorce figures, it is getting on for time we called a halt. Someone has to stand up and admit that yes, actually, it's true: having children is a rite of passage. And you aren't allowed to *creep back down that passage into* the sunlit world of sexy, boozy adolescent freedom. Parents, face it: it is your duty to be a bit dull. At least *until children reach independence* and you can decline into a disgraceful old age.

Unfortunately for the rock generation, the safest place for children to grow up undamaged is always going to be the uncool, humdrum, workaday world of a pig-ordinary marriage. All the better, of course, if it seethes with attraction and heartfelt mutual devotion; but even a regime of tolerant kindness and wry reluctant faithfulness will do.

Hell, we had our turn at being young. We should have guessed it couldn't last for ever.

Where the tigers go to die

Bronwen Maddox reports from the Apec summit

Since arriving at the summit of South-East Asian nations in *Vancouver*, President Clinton has maintained a dogged insouciance. He took to the golf course in heavy drizzle, emerging to dismiss the Asian financial crisis *simply* as "a few little glitches in the road ... we're working through them".

Although Asian leaders joined him in resisting doom-mongering, the financial crisis which has spread around the Pacific Rim to South Korea and Japan will dominate the two-day Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum. As talks opened yesterday, there were doubts *that Apec members* would meet the challenge.

Since its creation in 1989, the forum has failed to live up to hopes that it *would be a significant force through* which its 18 members would help to modernise each other's economies. Although President Clinton elevated it to *summit* status in 1993 in a *drive* to liberalise trade, it has maintained a self-congratulatory air, in which the Asian economic "miracle" has been used to justify closed markets and authoritarian policies.

Talk of the miracle has now gone, *after South Korea's* appeal to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for $20 billion to shore up its fractured banking system, and yesterday's collapse of *Yamaichi Securities*, Japan's fourth-largest broker. Only China remains ebullient: President Jiang Zemin says its economic situation is "excellent" and predicts growth this year of 9 per cent.

In private, American advisers acknowledge that even if matters get no worse, the world has changed. It is now inevitable that the slump and devaluations will hamper growth in America *and Europe, as Alan* Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Chairman, recognised last week. The crisis will send Western trade deficits with the afflicted Asian countries higher. Investment, too, could be hit; the recently announced plans for an LG electronics complex in South Wales and a Hyundai microchip plant in Scotland could both be affected.

More subtly, Asia's economic woes will also change Western foreign policy, which has been based on the assumption that the Pacific boom will continue, and will help to counterbalance China's economic and military power, rebuild North Korea and liberalise trade.

Although America has so much at stake, it is handicapped in the battle to contain the crisis from spreading to *markets around the world. In recent* weeks Congress has denied Mr Clinton both fast-track powers to strike trade liberalisation pacts and an extra *$3.5 billion* funding for the IMF for just such emergencies. In contrast, Britain, France, Germany and Italy have indicated that they would pay more to the IMF. For Mr Clinton, such chequebook diplomacy — such as America's $50 billion bail-out of Mexico earlier this decade — is not possible.

It is the response of Japan, not America, which is now critical. *Yesterday there appeared to be* grounds for cautious optimism that it is prepared to take the first steps in ensuring the stability of its banking system. Mitsuo Horiuchi, the International Trade and Industry Minister, said: "Since the Japanese Government is seriously pushing the reforms, I would like the US to patiently watch us."

However, there are doubts among other delegations that Japan can successfully pull off the balancing trick of allowing bankrupt banks *to fail, while* recapitalising those which can be saved. Drawing that distinction will mean ignoring the web of favours and *special interests* between Government and the banks.

Despite widespread relief when South Korea finally called on Friday for help from the IMF, there are doubts about whether it will be able to carry through an IMF austerity programme in the face of *domestic* political opposition. Neither do many people in Vancouver think America is likely to win backing for its call for greater liberalisation, *particularly* of the world's financial markets. While Malaysia stands alone in its now-familiar call for immediate curbs on currency dealers, other delegations hint that the instinct of the most-afflicted countries will be to tighten control on their financial institutions.

The reasons why Apec has been self-congratulatory and ineffective in its eight-year life are fused with the causes of the *present crisis — above* all, the refusal of many countries to recognise the dark side of the Asian miracle. Cronyism, corruption and *politically* inspired investment have driven much of the expansion in lending which has now been revealed to be insupportable. China, so triumphant yesterday, is hardly innocent of these faults.

For the moment, the vagaries of American domestic *politics* have put Mr Clinton where many Apec members say they want him: largely on the sidelines. Whether the response to the crisis is adequate will depend on whether the affected countries themselves, particularly Japan, are prepared to get to grips with their deliberately *neglected* problems at home.

A Right do

DIARY

AS final flings go, it could be wild. William Hague is to mark his last days of bachelorhood before his wedding to Ffion Jenkins next month with a stag weekend at a secret foreign location. A dozen friends, including Sebastian Coe and Alan Duncan, are due to join the Tory leader for the jamboree, so often marked by jolly japes, strippagrams and booze. The men-only trip is being organised by Hague's old chum Nick Levy, a lawyer who left Britain for Brussels in 1994 but took time out to help his buddy during the election.

Next: meet the wife

Those who have *not* been invited for the stag weekend, or the wedding itself — a *small affair*, lacking Baroness Thatcher and John Major — should not feel too aggrieved. Lord Parkinson, Tory head boy and a convivial party thrower, is holding a less select bash at the Carlton Club two days before. More than 400 *guests*, including all Tory MPs and their spouses and frontbench peers, have been invited.

With all these festivities, however, only one person seems to be sticking to the Thatcherite creed of thrift. *Ffion has* dispensed with Neil Cunningham, the fashion designer who made her celebrated black number for the conference this autumn, and *has turned* instead to a friend to knock up a wedding dress on her old Singer.

● *AN invitation from that endan*gered specimen, the Independent on Sunday, *to a debate: "Should cannabis be legalised?" Then comes the caveat. "Please note this is a non-smoking zone."*

Rattling yarn

SIMON RATTLE's prowess with the baton is not doubted. If his feet could only perform with such dexterity then a forthcoming engagement in Austria would not be causing the hirsute conductor such alarm. Rattle is to conduct the Vi*enna Philharmonic at the Salzburg* Mozart Festival in January. Such is Rattle's standing in Austria, he will be guest of honour at the grand ball at the Golden Hall.

And there Rattle's problems begin. For he is to lead off the dancing *with a waltz. Rattle is no* twinkletoes and the prospect of falling on his face is exercising him greatly. A crash course would seem to be in order but Rattle will not be joining the *Come Dancing* hopefuls for night classes. Instead, he has engaged Sir Anthony Dowell, no less, director of the Royal Ballet, to tutor his two left feet. A friend detects improvement. "It's *not strictly ballroom but Simon* should get through it without inflicting any injuries."

● *THE physique of the PM has won the hard-earned adulation of Parisian fashion folk. "Tony is not exactly what you'd call a hunk,"* opines *French* Elle, *"but women love him. If he has ears like Dumbo, it's simply to hear better. If he's losing his hair, it's simply to make him more masculine. He looks elegant in Armani suits, but at weekends throws on a sweater and becomes Monsieur Gap."*

Cover blown

CONTRARY to suggestions that *William Hague and John Red*wood are now the best of friends, a certain wariness has yet to be dispelled between them. At a meeting of several senior Shadow Cabinet members, Hague brandished a *copy of Business Age magazine*, whose cover featured a large picture of Redwood under the headline "Hague's worst nightmare".

"What's all this then?", inquired Hague, adopting his best Dixon of Dock Green. A sheepish Redwood, who had not seen the *magazine*, insisted the phrase was not his invention. Much talk of loyalty to the newly elected leader ensued. To prove *his fealty towards Hague*, Redwood agreed to pen an article for the next issue of *Business Age*, praising Hague's leadership. Curiously, Redwood's apologia contains only one sentence lauding Hague's "determination and clarity" — *but a thousand words on* Redwood's favourite topic, Europe.

Geoff Thompson

"The firm's gone bust. Sell everything!"

● *GAVIN ESLER, pretty face of the BBC's new 24-hour news channel, is a man who always knew his destiny. In 1990 he wrote a sub-Forsythian novel,* Loyalties, *about chaos, corruption and violence on a round-the-clock news network.*

Moving tale

THE DEATH of her "best friend" Diana, Princess of Wales, has not subdued the ambitions of the Duchess of York. She wants to star opposite Kevin Costner in the sequel to *The Bodyguard*. Costner claims Diana agreed to play a princess who falls in love with her bodyguard. Filming cannot start until a substitute has been found. Enter Fergie, who has thrown her tiara into the ring. "She is a tall and beautiful-looking lady so I doubt they would consider me," she says. "But I would do it, sure."

The duchess: slim chance

● *JAMES WHALE, radio rottweiler, has been moonlighting as a waiter in the Harrogate restaurant run by his son. Have Yorkshire diners met their match?*

JASPER GERARD

هكذا من الأصل

SHOCK AND THERAPY

Lessons east and west from the Yamaichi affair

Rarely has an economic summit been more serendipitously timed than this week's Asia-Pacific meeting in Vancouver. The collapse of Yamaichi Securities, Japan's fourth largest broker, following hard on South Korea's reluctant resort to the International Monetary Fund, underscores the urgency of bold concerted action to restore confidence in Asia's debt-ridden financial markets. The most immediate need, as the Bank of Japan has recognised in the case of Yamaichi, is for large injections of public funds to protect depositors in collapsing banks, life insurance and other financial institutions; this is no time to worry about the "moral hazard" of insulating the culprits from their mistakes. Only then can the required mergers or closures, market-opening, greater transparency and reforms to slack regulatory practices proceed in an orderly fashion and a steep, deflationary spiral be avoided.

Given the scale of the bad debt that has corroded almost every Asian country's banking system, the price-tag will be high, but nothing like as high as the costs of prevarication would be. For if this task is bungled — and to be effective, the medicine must start working almost immediately — the impact of an Asian liquidity crisis will cut growth in the real economy worldwide.

The Japanese Government in particular must now abandon its Micawberish attitude to the deep-seated problems in its banking sector, problems that have been apparent ever since the country's bubble economy burst in 1990. There is now an immediate and present danger of Japanese banks facing an end of foreign credit lines. They could then be forced into rapid sales of their huge holdings of US treasury bonds.

Whatever the particular circumstances, including secret liabilities hidden from the regulators, of Yamaichi's collapse, it cannot be dismissed as an isolated case. Nearly 20 Japanese financial institutions have folded within the past three years; Yamaichi was the third to fail this month, following Sanyo Securities and Hokkaido Takushoku Bank.

Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's Prime Minister, has until now insisted that public opposition put a wholesale bail-out of the financial system out of the question and that Japan's best course was to rely for a cure on its planned "big bang" modernisation of the financial market. But if Japan is to avoid a big bang of quite another kind, capable of demolishing the house before its foundations can be strengthened, its politicians must heed the country's notoriously conservative financial bureaucrats who have finally come round to the inevitability of a systemic rescue. The aim should be not only to reassure nervous creditors, but to reverse the damage done by recent fiscal retrenchment and refloat domestic demand. Healthier Japanese growth would in turn lessen the deflationary pain of the restructuring that lies ahead for most Asian economies.

At Vancouver, President Clinton should emphasise that firm action in Japan will be accompanied by adequate international financial support — which again will involve Tokyo — for Asian governments' efforts to clean house. The bill will run into well over $100 billion; South Korea alone could require $60 billion. Generous European participation in IMF stabilisation programmes will therefore be essential. Britain, which has a bigger involvement in the financial industry than any other large country and which is also the main European destination for Asian direct investment, has a particularly strong interest in effective damage-limitation. Finally, it is important that Vancouver's original free trade agenda is not pushed into the background by this crisis. Trade will be central to the region's longer-term recovery. This is something that Asian governments, who may be tempted to plead their financial woes as an excuse for delaying liberalisation, should not be allowed to forget.

REFORM AND RESISTANCE

Tory democrats should concentrate on the central issue

At the Conservative party conference seven weeks ago one message came through clearly: internal party reform meant the maximum possible involvement of the membership. The grip of the Westminster establishment — which has opposed democracy from the 1832 Reform Act onwards — then seemed to be weakening fast. It now appears that its dinosaurs have greater powers of survival. Sir Archibald Hamilton, the chairman of the 1922 Committee, and Robin Hodgson, the chairman of the National Union Executive Committee, have orchestrated an effective campaign of obstruction. It is unlikely that the party members will have more than 35 per cent of the college that elects the leader.

Frustration at all this explains the advertisements placed yesterday by reform activists. They protested that the new board of the party would not have a majority elected by the membership. They also called for the direct election of the chairman, a deputy chairman and the treasurer of the Conservative Party. Some of those involved in this campaign, such as the Charter Movement, are not especially important. Others, the One Person, One Vote enterprise for example, are rather more significant.

Their concern at the composition of the new board is entirely legitimate. The franchise for the elected element of its membership is not broad enough and the proportion to be popularly chosen is inadequate. As a result, the "reformed" body will be about as effective as its predecessor. This is excellent news for Tony Blair.

The rest of the activist manifesto is less persuasive. Internal party positions such as chairman and treasurer should still be appointed. The creation of alternative power centres would be a distraction and do nothing for the efficiency of Conservative Central Office. It would be as useful as Labour's own old rules that forced Mr Blair to place his elected shadow team — warts and all — in the Cabinet. The reformers are right in their sentiments but not in their strategy. This part of their effort is, as General Omar Bradley said of the Korean conflict, the wrong war, at the wrong place, at the wrong time, with the wrong enemy.

The central quest for Conservatives should be universal franchise for the leadership. MPs have a proper role in reducing the cast of contenders to a shortlist of two or three but the final choice must lie with the membership. Quixotic crusades to create an elected deputy chairman simply scatter the resources of those who seek radical reform.

It is not too late to alter this outcome. The membership should oblige backbench Tory MPs to exercise some overdue influence on the 1922 Executive Committee. One member, one vote will not happen unless intense pressure is exercised. William Hague has not reached a final position and remains sympathetic to fundamental reconstruction. His blueprint should be shaped by such sentiments. If not, he might find that Sir Archibald Hamilton does as much damage to the Conservative cause in this Parliament as Neil Hamilton did in the last one.

CAT FLAP

Is Humphrey suffering from Chairman Miaow syndrome?

The prime ministerial pet, despite a tendency to uncontrollable leaking, is apparently quite safe. We do not speak of Peter Mandelson but of his equally feline and apparently incontinent neighbour, Humphrey the Downing Street cat. Government spin-doctors have, once again, been forced into greater candour than they wished by a suspicious press. Humphrey, once a public figure, had been as hidden from the public gaze recently as Mr Mandelson was when Berniegate blew up. But, like the Minister without Portfolio, the cat without control has been dragged in front of the cameras.

Or has he? Is the Humphrey who posed for pictures yesterday the real people's pussy or a furry fake? This is a matter fully worthy of Ace Ventura, Pet Detective. For there is no lack of men and women who may have wanted nothing left of Humphrey but a can of meaty chunks.

The Government, initially, dealt with Humphrey's apparent illness by bringing in their top specialists; but they were eminent doctors of spin, rather than veterinary medicine. The insistence that Humphrey's illness meant he had to be kept away from the public eye had about it a whiff of the Kremlin catacombs. Was Humphrey, like a former Communist apparatchik, said to be "ill" and unable to face his public in order to disguise a grislier fate? Was he, like some latter-day Chairman Miaow, already cold in the grave while the authorities claimed he was an invalid, buying time so that a suitable successor could be found?

The suspicion that his nine lives were up was fed by rumour of anti-cat feelings at the highest levels in Downing Street. Mr Mandelson himself was held to be annoyed by the mess that Humphrey created. Cherie Blair was also alleged to have little time for the cat which, sources claimed, brought her out in a rash. If it was true then Humphrey was capable of what Ken Livingstone could only dream of — turning the Blairs red.

Humphrey, as a Civil Service rather than political appointment, had certainly tried to serve the new Government enthusiastically. It was reported that within hours of the election he had hit the mouse running, and although worried about pledges to squeeze fat cats he was prepared to accept Gordon Brown's strictures that there would be no more in the kitty for the first two years of Government. Now, however, he has been pensioned out of office and the search is on for a thoroughly modern moggy — a new cat for new Britain. Yet before the nation accepts Humphrey's replacement, the suspicions that he has been put not out to grass, but under it, must be allayed.

An authoritative witness, and that can only be Baroness Thatcher or John Major, must attest to the authenticity of the cat claiming to be Humphrey lest some substitution has taken place. If Government could find a double for Monty then it might find a lookalike Humphrey. The cat, if authentic, must also be asked if it jumped, or was pushed. Tony Blair may have felt he had to get rid of a creature apparently classified in the new Treasury inventory of government possessions as Claws (Four). The Prime Minister should tread carefully, and realise that when cats suddenly disappear it is only those from Cheshire which leave behind a smile.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Winchester's vote of no confidence

From Mrs Georgiana Hibberd

Sir, Winchester (letters, November 22) has been a safe Conservative seat for many years and the party, by choosing Gerald Malone, an ambitious Scot in need of a safe seat, has shown scant regard for this constituency.

The electorate in Winchester is sophisticated. It is in an affluent part of the country, with a strong academic tradition. Its geographical location gives it close links with continental Europe and it is home to many City commuters. These factors make it less parochial than some other parts of the country.

Maybe an electorate that votes with its head rather than its heart is fed up with the present Conservative "little Englander" mentality condoned by Gerald Malone. Maybe Mr Malone was seen to be a bad loser. Either way, I believe that the Conservatives would only have had a chance of winning this by-election if they had selected a fresh candidate, more in tune with the electorate.

It is all very well for a right-wing party, in cahoots with local reactionaries, to find safe seats for their placemen; but they should not expect people like those of Winchester always to elect them. Last Thursday Winchester demonstrated it was no longer prepared to be taken for granted by the Conservative Party.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGIANA HIBBERD,
Chepstow Cottage,
110 St Cross Road,
Winchester, Hampshire.
November 24.

From Mr Chris Metz

Sir, The Conservatives were roundly defeated in Winchester. Was this because of an unnecessary by-election, a strong Lib Dem candidate, lack of Labour effort, or a hangover of Tory unpopularity from the general election?

Yes, it was all of these; but above all it is a resounding vote of no confidence in the official Opposition and, in a word, Euroscepticism.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS METZ,
Beech House, Whiteshute Lane,
St Cross, Winchester, Hampshire.
November 24.

Laser pointers

From Mr Nick Sheldon

Sir, Although I was glad to see your report today correcting some misapprehensions about laser pointers, there are still more myths to dispel.

The lasers in question are not infrared (report, November 20) — if they were, their beams would be invisible. Nor are their beams brighter than the sun. Instead, it is the beam *as focused on a minute point in the retina* that slightly exceeds the level of brightness that would result from staring directly at the sun.

If MPs are keen to ban these 0.001 watt devices, perhaps they should turn their attention to the DIY plans for 40 watt lasers, which are readily available by mail order for as little as £10 and can be built by a competent sixth-former.

Yours faithfully,
NICK SHELDON
(Tutor, Science Starter Programme),
University of East Anglia, Norwich.
November 24.

Threat to countryside

From the Chairman of the London Green Belt Council

Sir, It always puzzles us why, given a green belt policy which is non-party-political and has been the great success story of British planning for over 40 years, professional and land owning associations still urge that as it is pinching it must be relaxed. If it is pinching, that proves that it is working, and that is the time to maintain it.

Our experience does not support Councillor Mark Dunn's view (letter, November 21) that "almost all developmental damage to the green belts has been the responsibility of remote central government". Our experience has been that on the whole central government, regardless of party, has valiantly upheld the far-sighted green belt policies against attempts from many quarters to undermine them.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. G. SMITH,
Chairman,
The London Green Belt Council,
111 Billy Lows Lane,
Potters Bar, Hertfordshire.
November 23.

Telling stories

From Mr G. H. de M. Carbutt

Sir, On inquiring in a well known high-street book retailer whether they had any books on Christmas, I was surprised to be told that they did not "stock fiction". I wonder what other titles will soon be found under that heading . . . train timetables?

Yours faithfully,
G. H. de M. CARBUTT,
The Old Rectory,
Salcott-cum-Virley, Essex.
November 24.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

High price of Oxbridge excellence

From the Vice-Chancellor of Leeds Metropolitan University

Sir, I have followed with wry amusement the furore over the possibility of Oxford and Cambridge Universities losing the additional £2,000 a student they receive from public funds through college fees (letters, November 7, 11, 20).

The Higher Education Funding Council has told this university that it estimates we receive in the region of £500 a student more than the average. The reason is that during the first half of the 1990s we generally did not expand our numbers unless we were fully funded for them. Other universities, however, took students at fee-income only (a third of the average cost) and in doing so pushed down the average cost for all universities. So, simply by seeking to maintain the resources we offer our students, we find ourselves receiving funds above the average.

The funding council, with government support, has told us that it expects us to come close to the average over the next three years. It will do this by reducing the funding per student we receive each year. We think this is unfair but, unlike others, we have not indulged in public protest.

A little dignity from our so-called elders and betters, consistency from our funding council and firm resolve from our Government is what is now needed.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE WAGNER,
Vice-Chancellor,
Leeds Metropolitan University,
Calverley Street, Leeds LS1 3HE.
November 21.

From Mrs Nicky Padfield

Sir, I support Anatole Kaletsky's forceful argument that the Government should fund Oxford and Cambridge universities, and do so properly ("Why we must all pay for Oxbridge", November 18).

In Fitzwilliam College our students are certainly "elite" in the sense that nearly all have achieved three A levels, at grade A. They are less socially "elite" than those at some other universities: 70 per cent of our applicants, and of our entrants, have been from maintained schools for years.

We are not complacent. We are working hard now, as we have for decades, to encourage a wider field of applicants, through open days and subject conferences and visits to schools by students and fellows. We actively encourage applications from ethnic minorities and from students *whose schools do not normally send* applicants to Cambridge.

As the headmaster of St Albans School wrote (letter, October 27), our commitment to academic excellence could not survive an admission system that discriminated on any ground other than talent. We need *more* resources, not fewer.

Yours faithfully,
NICKY PADFIELD
(Admissions Tutor, Arts),
Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.

From Mr Martin Gilbert

Sir, I cannot agree with Anatole Kaletsky that public expense is worthwhile to placate Oxbridge attendees and their parents. Thirty-five million pounds *is* a noticeable sum of money.

I work on a project to improve the primary form of teaching in the overwhelming majority of universities: *lecturing. If I succeed I will directly* affect the education of millions, not thousands. I have done so with a budget of some 0.5 per cent of the Oxbridge funding — and may falter for the lack of 0.1 per cent. I am surprised to have to use the phrase "cost efficiency" to an economist.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN GILBERT,
5 Dartmouth Park Avenue, NW5.
November 19.

From Mr G. D. Redfearn

Sir, Your otherwise excellent obituary of Professor Charles Kennedy (November 19) should have given him credit, while at Queen's, for my respectable honour schools mark in economic theory, surely one of the most surprising tutorial achievements of all time which should convince the Government of the necessity to continue to fund the distinctive Oxbridge tutorial system.

Yours faithfully,
G. D. REDFEARN,
The Weeths,
Alverton, Penzance, Cornwall.
November 20.

Performers' pay

From Mr John Disley

Sir, The escalation of the financial costs required to put on top-level events has generated the need for massive sponsorship and grant aid to keep the show on the road.

In more rational times the costs relating to sport and the arts were mostly met by those who paid to watch, but now star performers — be they footballers, opera singers or racing drivers — are so expensive that money from sponsorship and/or government has become imperative. Today the whole business, now sadly controlled by agents, is heading for self-destruction.

The Royal Opera House fiasco is a classic example of what happens when the costs of putting on a performance overwhelm the revenue available from spectators. You report today that La Scala opera house gets only 20 per cent of its income from ticket sales.

Grand prix racing might well be able to live without tobacco sponsorship if the drivers were paid less than is now negotiated for them. Millions would be saved and I doubt if the quality of the racing would diminish.

After all, Fangio, Ascari, Moss, Brooks and Hawthorn drove just as *competitively in the mid-Fifties for* a pittance when compared with the contracts of today.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DISLEY
(Chairman, The Olympians),
Hampton House,
Upper Sunbury Road,
Hampton, Middlesex.
November 18.

Degree of choice

From Mr Hans Baernhoft

Sir, Actors are always very sensitive to the status of the work they accept (letter, November 24), and with good reason.

Unlike other professions they have no academic qualifications to parade, and any tangible accomplishments, such as filmed performances, are all too quickly eroded by time.

The painful fact is that an actor's worth is judged largely by his current position. Word would soon get round if a featured performer were to take an extra's job and it would certainly be detrimental to his career.

Despite all the "luvvie" stereotyping, this is the real reason actors believe they should be exempt from the latest DSS initiative.

Yours faithfully,
HANS BAERNHOFT,
Rigal Management,
109 Albert Bridge Road, SW11.
rigal@mcmail.com
November 24.

Arts subsidies

From Dr Anthony Field

Sir, As a trustee of the Chichester Festival Theatre may I amplify the problems of the loss of Duncan Weldon as its theatre director (article, "Storm and stress in Sussex", November 20)? The real tragedy is the Arts Council's refusal over the past three years even to receive an application from our theatre, let alone to assess its work.

The Royal Shakespeare Company is reported (November 18) to have a trading loss of £1.8 million in 1996-97. This is over and above its approximately £10 million subsidy per annum for 11 new productions. Chichester has lost half a million pounds for 12 new productions with no subsidy whatsoever.

Where is the Arts Council's Drama Panel's policy?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY FIELD,
152 Cromwell Tower, Barbican, EC2.
November 20.

Long road home

From Mr William Fisher

Sir, Many people seem to believe that a full address is necessary on an envelope. They should bear in mind that they aren't *going* there, the postman is, and the street number and post code alone tell him the destination exactly.

That Mrs Rae's aunt's letter went to Haiti instead of Hants (letter, November 20) is her fault, not the Royal Mail's, which takes no heed of counties. I am confident that a letter addressed to me at

19
W9 IAZ

would reach me just as quickly as one addressed as below.

One wonders how much computer disk space is taken up with redundant mail address information.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM FISHER,
19 Clarendon Gardens, W9.
November 21.

From Mr Christopher Pringle

Sir, Your correspondent Mr D. E. Rae prompts me to submit what I feel may be the longest journey for the least cost achieved by a letter.

In the late 1920s my father, a doctor in Manchester, received a letter from a firm of manufacturing chemists (by name, I think, James Wolley). If I recall correctly they were also in Manchester. The letter bore a halfpenny stamp.

On the back the letter was stamped "Mukden" (today called Shenyang) and alongside was written "Not known in Manchuria try Manchester England".

Over a period of approximately eight months the letter had travelled over 20,000 miles. It contained a circular listing stocks of medicines available "off the shelf", probably by then past their sell-by date.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER PRINGLE,
Narrow Waters,
Oakshade Road, Oxshott, Surrey.
November 20.

Essex alternative to Albuquerque

From Mr Rodney Legg

Sir, The Neuhoff family from New Mexico chose Colchester as their alternative to Albuquerque and its rising crime, after following surveillance cameras in Essex via the Internet (report, November 21).

Both your potted comparisons between the two cities, and the English town's own advertisements, give Essex due credit for having the province's first capital, visited by Emperor Claudius, but omit to mention what happened next.

Colchester, to the Britons, was "the citadel of servitude" according to Tacitus, when it became the first target in the Celtic revolt of autumn AD 60. Boadicea spent two days reducing Colchester to burnt ruins, and proceeded to St Albans and London, slaughtering an "established" total given by Tacitus as 70,000 Romans and collaborators.

This news will come too late to influence the decision of the Neuhoffs, but it does put the Albuquerque murder rate into a mitigating historical context.

Yours sincerely,
RODNEY LEGG,
The National School,
North Street, Wincanton, Somerset.
November 22.

From Mr Peter Revell

Sir, Despite the Neuhoffs' desire to move away from Albuquerque and its street gangs, the city surely deserves some congratulations for becoming a "shipping" centre.

Situated on the edge of the Mexican desert and at the foot of the Sandia Mountains, Albuquerque is at least 800 miles from the nearest coastline — just think what it might have become had it been sited by the sea.

Yours sincerely,
PETER REVELL,
39 High Ashton, Kingston Hill,
Kingston on Thames, Surrey.
November 22.

Greenwich pride

From Mr N. B. L. Evelegh

Sir, It is now become almost universally fashionable to knock the plans being developed at Greenwich, initiated by the last administration and continued by the present Government. I suggest that we are again in our national failure-loving mode.

This only repeats the response to the Prince Consort's proposals in 1850, which became the magnificent Great Exhibition of 1851 — the Crystal Palace opened within ten months of contracts being signed, despite the mockery and criticism of almost the entire Establishment.

Your newspaper, having been seriously critical of the Prince Consort's plans in 1850, reported the opening with the words:

> Never before was such a vast multitude collected together within the memory of man. The struggles of great nations in battle, the levies of whole races, never called forth such an array as thronged the streets of London on 1st May . . . but here was an occasion which might be celebrated by the whole human race without one pang of regret, envy or national hate.

Can we not once again raise our national pride and expectations?

Yours faithfully,
NICK EVELEGH,
Hodges Farmhouse,
Frittenden, Cranbrook, Kent.
November 20.

Class in the Army

From Brigadier Charles Millman (retd)

Sir, If the Defence Secretary is concerned about the current Army officer selection process (report, "Robertson wants a classless Army", November 14) then he must clearly first examine the selection standards demanded by the Regular Commissions Board.

Like those of its well tried and proven predecessor, the War Office Selection Board, these simply sift the likely lads from the "chaff", following a three-day varied individual and group tests programme, selecting those candidates — from whatever source — who are clearly fit, appear to have a spark behind the eyeballs and something between the ears, and display a presence likely to command the respect of others.

If this proven approach now requires modification then it is here that Mr Robertson should step in and say so.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES MILLMAN,
Nile Cottage,
62 North Road, Hythe, Kent.
November 16.

Blessed villages

From Mr Nick Dennis

Sir, I wonder whether any of the 30 "thankful villages" (letters, November 15 and 20) can match the achievement of Liechtenstein, 50 of whose soldiers marched off to the Napoleonic war. Fifty-one returned, a deserter from one of the other armies having been recruited along the way.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS DENNIS,
Valentine Cottage, Popes Lane,
Cookham Dean, Berkshire.
n.dennis@ic.ac.uk
November 21.

هكذا من الاصل

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 24: The Duke of Edinburgh, also representing The Queen, was present today at the Funeral of Princess Beatrix of Hohenlohe-Langenburg which was held in the Church of the Evangelische Stadtkirche, Langenburg, Germany.

His Royal Highness, Senior Fellow, this evening attended the Royal Academy of Engineering New Fellow's Dinner at Drapers Hall, Throgmorton Street, London EC2.

The Queen was represented by General Sir Roger Wheeler (Aide-de-Camp General) at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of General Sir John Hackett (formerly Aide-de-Camp General) which was held in St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, London WC2, this afternoon.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by General Sir Brian Kenny.

The Princess Royal was represented by Professor Graham Zellick.

The Duke of Kent was represented by Mr Andrew Palmer.

The Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the Arrival of The President of the Republic of Finland and Mrs Ahtisaari and welcomed His Excellency and Mrs Ahtisaari on behalf of Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 24: The Prince Edward this evening attended the British Land British Open Doubles Championship at the Queen's Club, Palliser Road, London W14.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 24: The Prince of Wales was represented by the Lord Geddes at the Funeral of Princess Beatrix of Hohenlohe-Langenburg which was held in the Church of the *Evangelische Stadtkirche*, Langenburg, Germany, today.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 24: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this morning visited the Phoenix Theatre, Beaconsfield Street, Blyth, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Northumberland (the Viscount Ridley KG).

Her Royal Highness later opened the NCH Action for Children Ashington Family Centre, South View, Ashington, Northumberland.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 24: The Duke of Gloucester this afternoon opened the new extension to the Leonard Cheshire Home of St Bridget's, Rustington, Littlehampton, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex (Major General Sir Philip Ward).

His Royal Highness this evening visited the Crawley Sea Cadets, Longmere Road, Crawley, West Sussex, and opened T.S. Cossack and also opened the Crawley Youth Centre.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, this evening attended a Reception to mark the Eighteenth Anniversary of BLISS (Baby Life Support Systems) at Claridge's Hotel, London W1.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 24: The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, this afternoon visited the 2nd Battalion at Trenchard Barracks, Celle, Germany.

Captain Dominic Hampshire was in attendance.

Royal engagements

The Queen will hold an Investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00; and, later, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, will visit the Finnish Festival, Barbican, at 6.00. The President of Finland will be present.

The Duke of Edinburgh, patron, will present the British Athletic Federation awards at Buckingham Palace at 10.00; as patron and trustee will attend receptions at St James's Palace for young people who have reached Gold Standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, 11.30 and 4.00; and, as patron, will chair a meeting of the trustees, Outward Bound Trust, Buckingham Palace, 2.30.

Prince Edward will attend the Woodard Festival Concert, Albert Hall, at 7.00.

The Princess Royal will open a new special language centre, Dame Alice Owen's School, Potters Bar, at noon; as patron, British School of Osteopathy, will attend the annual graduation degree conferment ceremony and reception, St George's Cathedral, London SE1, at 3.00; and will present the awards at the Silver Lapwing competition 1997 at 1 Great George Street, London, at 6.00.

Princess Alexandra will open the Minster General Housing Association's day centre and housing for the elderly at Simon De Senlis Court, Northampton, at noon; will visit Irthlingborough Infant School, Irthlingborough, at 2.05; and will visit Allen and Caswell to mark the 100th anniversary of its foundation, at Regent Works, Kettering, at 3.15.

Birthdays today

Sir John Drummond, writer and broadcaster, 63; Mr Francis Durbridge, playwright and author, 85; Sir Cosmo Haskard, former Governor, Falkland Islands, 81; Mr Dickie Jeeps, former chairman, Sports Council, 66; Mr Charles Kennedy, MP, 38; Mr Imran Khan, cricketer, 45; Dr Elizabeth Laverick, electrical engineer, 72; Lord McConnell, 75; Sir Fergus Montgomery, former MP, 70; Lord Naseby, 61; Lord Richardson of Duntisbourne, KG, 82; Mr Richard Seifert, architect, 87; Mr L.P.L. Shurman, former Banking Ombudsman, 67; Lord Weatherill, 77; Sir Peter Wright, former director, Birmingham Royal Ballet, 71.

School news

The King's School, Worcester
The Governors have appointed Mr Timothy H. Keyes as Headmaster of The King's School, Worcester, with effect from September 1998. Mr Keyes, who is currently Second Master at The Royal Grammar School, Guildford, will succeed Dr John M. Moore, who will retire in August 1998 after fifteen years of distinguished service.

Dinners

The Royal Academy of Engineering
The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Fellow of The Royal Academy of Engineering, attended the 1997 New Fellows' Dinner held last night at the Drapers' Hall. The Speech of Welcome was given by the President, Sir David Davies, CBE, FEng, FRS. The Senior Fellow proposed the toast to the New Fellows and presented the Prince Philip Medal to Professor John Argyris, FEng, FRS, and Dr Ray Clough in recognition of their developmental work on the formulation of finite element analysis. Mr Edward Gallagher, FEng, responded on behalf of the New Fellows.

Bakers' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, attended the election dinner of the Bakers' Company held last night at the Mansion House after the annual election day service held at the Church of St Mary-at-Hill. The Ven Dr Brian Kirk-Duncan officiated and the Right Rev Michael Marshall, Assistant Bishop in London, preached the sermon.

At the dinner, Mr John L. Moon, Master, presided. The Lord Mayor, Assistant Alan Willis and Judge Neil Denison, QC, Common Serjeant of London, also spoke.

The following were elected officers of the Bakers' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr Christopher John Gifford; Upper Warden, Mr Robert Brian Osborne; Second Warden, Mr Robin Edward Alfred Salmon; *Third Warden*, Mr John Wheatcroft Tompkins; Under Warden, Mr Anthony George Cavan.

Broderers' Company
Princess Sarvath El Hassan was the principal guest at a Ladies' Dinner of the Broderers' Company held last night at Mercers' Hall. Among the guests were:
The Jordanian Ambassador and Mrs Ayoub, Sir Greville Spratt, GBE, and Lady Spratt, Sir Alan Urwick (former Ambassador to Jordan) and Lady Urwick, Major-General A.F.W. MacLellan, CB, CVO, MBE (Master of the Fletchers' Company) and Mrs MacLellan and Mr D.A. Tate (Master of the Mercers' Company) and Mrs Tate.
Jordanian and British embroidery was on display before the dinner.

English-Speaking Union
The High Commissioner for Australia was the guest of honour and speaker at a dinner of the Birmingham branch of the English-Speaking Union held last night at the Council House, Birmingham, to mark its 50th anniversary. Councillor Peter Hollingworth, chairman of the branch, presided.

Mr Michael Cadbury, vice-president, the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Mrs Valerie Mitchell, Director-General of the ESU, Mr Brian Bissell, Headmaster of The Blue Coat School, and Mr Charles Barwell, a members of the ESU's board of governors, were among the speakers.

Anglo-Belgian Society
Vicomte Etienne Davignon was the principal guest and speaker at the Anglo-Belgian Society's annual dinner held last night at the Anglo-Belgian Club, Knightsbridge, to mark King's Day (November 15). Viscount Montgomery of Alamein presided. The Ambassador of Belgium also spoke.

Thorney Island Society
Mr Piers Gough was the guest speaker at a dinner of the Thorney Island Society held last night at the Basil Street Hotel. Miss June Stubbs, chairman, presided.

CHRIS HARRIS

Lord Hattersley of Sparkbrook — Roy Hattersley, the former Deputy Leader of the Labour Party — on being introduced into the House of Lords yesterday

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Lope de Vega, dramatist, Madrid, 1562; Catherine of Braganza, Queen Consort of Charles II, Vila Vicosa, Portugal, 1638; Nicholas Tindal, historian, Plymouth, 1687; Charles Kemble, actor-manager, Brecon, 1775; Joseph Lancaster, educator, London, 1778; Andrew Carnegie, iron and steel manufacturer and philanthropist, Dunfermline, 1835; Karl Benz, pioneer of the motorcar, Karlsruhe, Germany, 1844; Angelo Roncalli, Pope John XXIII 1958-63, Sotto il Monte, 1881; Nikolai Vavilov, plant geneticist, Moscow, 1887.

DEATHS: Edward Alleyn, actor-manager, London, 1626; Isaac Watts, hymn writer, London, 1748; Joseph Wilton, sculptor, London, 1803; Sir *Francis Chantrey, sculptor, London*, 1841; Sir Augustus Callcott, landscape painter, London, 1844; John Gibson Lockhart, biographer of Sir Walter Scott, Abbotsford, 1854; Heinrich Barth, explorer in Africa, Berlin, 1865; Lilian Baylis, founder of the Old Vic, London, 1937; Johannes Jensen, poet and novelist, Nobel laureate 1944, Copenhagen, 1950; Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, mining industrialist, Johnannesburg, 1957; Dame Myra Hess, pianist, London, 1965; Upton Sinclair, novelist, Bound Brook, New Jersey, 1968; Yukio Mishima, writer, committed ritual suicide, Tokyo, 1970; U Thant, Secretary-General of *the UN 1961-71; New York, 1974*.

The Flood (Genesis vi, 9) is said to have begun on this day, 2348 BC.

John Mayenberg, of St Louis, Missouri, patented evaporated milk, 1884.

Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* opened at the Ambassadors Theatre, London, 1952.

University news

Oxford
Dr Nick Cartmell has been awarded the Dooley Prize in Anatomy 1996-97.

University prizes
Sebastian N. Barnes and Kamakshya D. Trivedi, of Merton College, have been awarded the George Medley Junior Prizes 1997.

Pavry and Winchester Thesis Prizes 1997 (International Relations)

Dasturzada Dr Jal Pavry Memorial Prize: Renata Dwan, St Anne's College, *An Uncommon Community: France and the European Defence Community, 1950-1954*.

Bapsybanoo Marchioness of Winchester Prize: Jennifer Jackson Preece, University College: *The International Status of National Minorities in the European Nation-States System*.

Jesus College
Miss Mui-Jun Tan and Michael John **Beadle** (formerly of King's School, Chester) have been awarded Bahram Dehqani-Tafti Prizes in PPE 1997.

Luncheon

Royal Over-Seas League
The High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago was the guest of honour at a luncheon of the Royal Over-Seas League held yesterday at Over-Seas House, St James's. Sir Geoffrey Ellerton, chairman, and members of the central council were the hosts.

Memorial service

General Sir John Hackett
The Queen was represented by General Sir Roger Wheeler and the Duke of Edinburgh by General Sir Brian Kenny at a service of thanksgiving for the life of General Sir John Hackett held yesterday at St Martin-in-the-Fields.

The Princess Royal was represented by Professor Graham Zellick and the Duke of Kent by Mr Andrew Palmer. Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands was represented by the Ambassador of The Netherlands.

The Rev Nicholas Holtam officiated. The Very Rev Colin Slee, Provost of Southwark Cathedral, the Rev Johan Snoek and the Rev Sam Davies read prayers. Major-General John Strawson read The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars Collect and Colonel John Waddy read the Airborne Forces Collect.

Professor Arthur Lucas, Principal of King's College London, and Sir Frank Roberts read the lessons. Dr J.W.A.M. Verlinden and Mrs Sophie C. *Lambrechtsen-Ter-Horst* paid tribute on behalf of those in Renkum, Oosterbeek and the Arnhem area. Professor Sir Michael Howard, FBA, gave an address.

Field Marshal Lord Bramall, Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, Mr Hugo Brunner, Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, and Mr H W G Elwes, Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, and Mrs Elwes attended. Among others present were:

Lady Hackett (widow), Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Timothy Hope (stepson-in-law and stepdaughter), Miss Elizabeth Hackett (stepdaughter), Mr Sebastian Hope and Mr Alexander Hope (step-grandsons), Miss N Kendall, Mr and Mrs Rex Hackett, Commander and Mrs Jonathan Hackett, Mr and Mrs John Hackett, Miss Isobel Drummond, Major and Mrs Robin Medley, Miss Marigold Pakenham-Walsh, Mr Andrew Taylor.

Earl Jellicoe, FRS (SAS Association), Field Marshal Marshal Lord Carver, Field Marshal Lord Inge, Lord and Lady Cope of Berkeley, Lord and Lady Hamilton of Dalzell, Lord Rees-Mogg, Lord Weatherill, Sir Frank and Lady Cooper, Sir Michael Palliser, the Hon Mrs Raynsford, the Hon Piers St Aubyn, Sir Geoffrey Bates, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir George and Lady Kennard, Colonel Sir Charles Lowther, Pauline Lady Rumbold.

Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs, Field Marshal Sir John Stanier, General Sir Cecil Blacker, General Sir Edward and Lady Burgess, General Sir George Cooper, General Sir Martin and Lady Farndale, General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick, General Sir Robert Ford, General Sir Charles and Lady Harington, General Sir Parick Howard-Dobson, General Sir John Learmont, General Sir *John and Lady Mogg, General Sir Harry* and Lady Tuzo, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Barraclough.

Vice-Admiral Sir Ian and Lady McGeoch.

Lieutenant-General Sir Robin Carnegie, Lieutenant-General Sir Napier and Lady Crookenden, Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Leask, Lieutenant-General Sir Anthony Mullens (Royal Dragoon Guards), Lieutenant-General Sir Rupert Smith, Lieutenant-General Sir James Wilson, Lieutenant-General Sir David Young, Air Marshal Sir Timothy and Lady Garden, Major-General Sir Desmond Rice.

Sir Ronald and Lady Arculus, Sir Edward Ford, Sir David and Lady Hannay, Lady Kenny, Lady Lea, Lady Liddell-Hart, Lady MacLellan, Sir Patrick and Lady Reilly, Lady Richardson, Sir Allan Urwick (Anglo-Jordanian Society), Sir Richard and Lady Way, Colonel and the Hon Mrs P C Ormrod.

Rear-Admiral Richard Cobbold, Major-General and Mrs R E Barron, Major-General S J Beardsworth, Major-General D Beckett, Major-General Peter Chiswell, *Major-General* and Mrs A J Deane-Drummond, Major-General A G Denaro, Major-General M Forrester, Major-General J P W Friedberger, Major-General G C A Gilbert, Major-General A S H Irwin, Major-General J F J Johnston.

Major-General S K Lecky, Major-General Peter Martin, Major-General C A R Nevill, Major-General P T Tower, Major-General C Tyler, Major-General and Mrs J B Willis, Major-General D Wilson, Major-General H G Woods, Brigadier and Mrs M D K Dauncey, Brigadier A R Douglas-Nugent (The Queen's Royal Lancers and 17/21 Lancers), Brigadier Kenneth Hunt, Commander J W Hackett, Commander and Mrs M J Rivett-Carnac.

Colonel A J Bateman, Colonel R F A Crichton, Colonel N T Davies, Colonel K R Dyer, Colonel P Gilchrist (Royal Tank Regiment), Colonel and Mrs R H G Hoare, Colonel John Holland, Lieutenant-Colonel J H Allason, Lieutenant-Colonel and *Mrs* R W C Charlton, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs R W G Nicholls, Lieutenant-Colonel James Tedder ("Not Forgotten" Association).

Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs R M Thornely, Lieutenant-Colonel W A H Townend (Oxford University *OTC*), Lieutenant-Colonel Glenn Ulrich, Lieutenant-Colonel J C Young, Lieutenant-Colonel D J Younger, Major A J Du Sautoy, Major R A Farran, Major H Faulkner-Brown, Major Hugh Gillespie, *Major* and Mrs R A R Hoare, Major J K Nairne, Air Vice-Marshal and Mr B H Newton, Major and Mrs Randle Cooke, Major Narindar Saroop, Group Captain and Mrs David Boulton.

Mr and Mrs R Adams, Mr and Mrs J Aird, Ms Anne Baring, Mr C Benn, Mr and Mrs Cecil Carver, Mrs A Chambers, Dr K Charlton, Mr John Christie, Dr and Mrs R Cory-Pearce, the *Rev* G Dunstan, Mr and Mr John Fairbairn, Mr and Mrs J J Fallon, Professor M R D Foot, Mrs J M Frost, the Rev T T and Mrs Gibson, Mr Gerald Green, The Rev D Green, Mr G Green.

Dr B N Hall, the Rev R L Hancock, Mr J Hardie, Mr D Hardman, Mr A B C Harrison, Mr Max Hastings, Mr Philip Howard, Mr and Mrs M Hughes-Hallett, Mr and Mrs D W Humphreys, Dr P Jones, Mr and Mrs B Kemp, Mr J King, Mr R Kirby, Professor M A Knibb, FBA, Mr E Koops, Mr Bernard Levin, Dr Julian Lewis, MP.

Mr and Mrs B Madden, Mr Christopher Mann, Mr and Mrs Michael Noakes, Mrs E Palamountain, Mr and Mrs R B C Palamountain, Mr Michael Pratt, QC, Mr and Mrs M A H Reinhold, Mr C Shea-Simonds, Mrs J Sutro, Mrs J M Strawson, Mr N L Thomas, Mr T Thomas, Mr I D P Thorne, Mr and Mrs P Vine, Mrs J I Waddy, Mr and Mrs Graham Wadsworth, Mr and Mrs Lance Withers.

Professor John Barron (St Peter's College, Oxford) and Mrs Barron, Mr D Douglas (Hospital for Tropical Diseases), *Professor Ian Hall (Bloomsbury International Society)*, and representatives of the Polish Airborne Association, the Carlton Club, the Esmee Fairbairn Charitable Trust, and many other friends from the United Kingdom and The Netherlands.

Latest wills

William Samuel Purves, of York, left estate valued at £730,493 net.
He left £30,000 each to the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, Hunt Saboteurs Association, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Animal Liberation Front supporters' group, PISCES and MIND; £20,000 each to: *Doctors and Lawyer for Responsible* Medicine, Fondazione Hans Ruesch, Blue Cross Animal Hospital, and the Mouth and Foot Painting Artists; £10,000 each to: PDSA, ARKANGEL, Donkey Sanctuary, and the RSPCA; £5,000 each to: New Earswick Operatic Society, Joseph Rowntree Theatre, York Opera, and Shipton Amateur Dramatic Society, plus his residuary estate to the RSPCA.

Phyllis Joan Wing, of London SW6, left estate valued at £1,004,636 net.

Marjorie Edith Bennett, of Andover, Hampshire left estate valued at £3,956,816 net.
She left £10,000 to the NSPCC and to the Royal Star and Garter Home.

James David Agar Keith, of Fakenham, Norfolk, left estate valued at £2,596,904 net.

Stella Dorothy Skinner, of Maidenhead, Berkshire, left estate valued at £1,389,110 net.
She left £4,000 to Stoke Lacey church, Branyard.

Beatrice Marsinah MacKinnon, of Hurlon, Hampshire, left estate valued at £2,391,069 net.

Elizabeth Mary Main, of St Ives, Cornwall, left estate valued at £1,873,429 net.
She left £5,000 each to the RNLI, St Uny Lelant parish church, and St Ives parish church, and £2,000 to the National Trust.

Michael Powell Hutchinson, medical doctor, of Taunton, Somerset, left estate valued at £1,150,662 net.
He left £10,000 to Hamlin Churchill Childbirth Injury Fund, of Fairhaven, West Midlands, and £1,000 to St John's church, Carhampton.

William Duncan Gordon Grant, company director, of Poole, Dorset, left estate valued at £3,366,335 net.

Eileen Ruby Coate, of Bridgwater, Somerset, left estate valued at £1,230,706 net.
She left shares in her estate to PDSA and the National Association for the Relief of Paget's Disease.

Marion Helena Horton, of Windermere, Cumbria, left estate value dat £2,063,752 net.
She left £500 to St Peter's church, Far Sawrey.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.G. Bentley and Miss A.H. Muncey
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Mark Bentley, of Norwood Hill, Surrey, and Adrienne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Muncey, of Limpsfield, Surrey.

Major C.B.B. Clee and Miss F.M.E. Chamberlain
The engagement is announced between Major Charles Clee, The Blues and Royals, son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs John Clee, of Bulford Village, Wiltshire, and Finetta, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Colvin Chamberlain, of Devizes, Wiltshire.

Mr I.D.G. Hobbs and Miss M.M. Thomas
The engagement is announced between Ion, son of Mrs Elspeth Hobbs, of Winchester, and Megan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gareth Thomas, of Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

Mr R.J.H. Isaacs and Miss A.M. Lyons
The engagement is announced between Roderick, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Isaacs, of Jordans, Eashing, Surrey, and Ann Marie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Lyons, of Croghan, County Roscommon, Eire.

Mr A.F. Jenner and Miss L.B. Theobald
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of the late Mr P.F. Jenner and of Mrs J.G. Jenner, of Tonbridge, Kent, and Lisa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Denis Theobald, of Cobham, Surrey.

Mr H.M.M. Mackenzie and Miss C.J. Smith
The engagement is announced between Hamish, son of Mr and Mrs Iain Mackenzie, of Droitwich, Worcestershire, and Caroline, daughter of the late Mr John Smith and of Mrs Kay Smith, of Winsor, Hampshire.

Marriage

Mr J.W.G. Newall and Miss S.B. Allison
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Mary The Boltons, West Kensington, between Lieutenant Jamie Newall, younger son of Sir Paul and Lady Newall, of Yoxford, Suffolk, and Miss Sacha Allison, daughter of Mr and *Mrs Geoffrey Allison, of Harcourt* Hill, Oxford. The Rev Gerald Beauchamp officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Topsy Secombe. The Hon Henry Stewart was best man.

A guard of honour was found by 7 Company Coldstream Guards.

A reception was held at the home of the bridegroom's grandparents, Sir Julian and Dame Paddy Ridsdale.

Rosemary Lady Butler

A memorial service for Rosemary Liège Woodgate Butler will be held at Chelsea Old Church on Tuesday, December 9, 1997, at noon, followed by a celebration in the Church Hall.

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FAX: 0171 481 9313

I prostrated myself to worship the angel but he said, 'You must not do that. I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who bear their witness to Jesus'. Revelation 19 : 10

BIRTHS

BAZLEY - On November 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Claudia (née Montoya) and Martin, a daughter, Zoë.

BELBIN - On 12th November at the Chelsea and Westminster, to Amanda (née Bigg) and Max, twins, Alexander James Craven and Olivia Charlotte Bigg.

CARR - On November 19th, Maria and David, a daughter, Adele Natalie Marie.

CHAMBERS - On 23rd November 1997, to Claire (née Dickson) and Rupert, a daughter, Victoria Mary Louise, a sister for Alexander.

CHERTAVIAN - On November 20th at The Portland Hospital, to Kate and Gerald, a son, Cameron Guy, 7lbs 5oz.

COBBOLD - On November 18th in Melbourne Australia, to Kate (née Henry) and Charles, a son, Nicholas, a brother for Edward.

DAVEY - On 12th November at home to Peter Davey and Jane Isaacs, a beautiful son, Charles Benjamin Lucas, a brother for Sally.

DEWAR - On Sunday 16th November 1997 at the Royal Free Hospital, to Robert and Ann (née Homburg), a son, David Natan.

DONALDSON - On November 19th, to Lisa and James, a daughter, Rebecca Frances.

DUNSCOMBE - On 23rd November 1997, to Sharon and Simon, a beautiful daughter, Summer Ellie.

GRAY - On 22nd November, to Sarah (née Kendal) and Paul, a daughter, Jemima Ursula *Sinclair*, a sister for Christopher.

GREENBURY - On November 20th, to Jonathan and Julia (née Walters-Rees), a daughter, India Lowri Elizabeth, a sister for George, Harry and Isaac.

HUDSON - On November 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Ursula and Dominic, a son, Konrad Dominic Emile, a brother for Sophie.

HUSSAIN - On November 21st at The Portland Hospital, London, to Kamariah and Hussain, a son, Kamry Haqim, a brother for Haiffa, 1978, Haizana, 1980, Hanim, *1984* and Kamal, 1986 - Malaysia.

ISAACS - See Davey.

KARLSSON - On November 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Rose Marie and Erland, a son, Andrei, a brother for Emilie and Michelle.

KHAN - On November 22nd at The Portland Hospital, to Tanzeela and Sohail, a son, Yusuf, a brother for Aisha and Sadia.

LEIMBACH - On November 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Susanne (née Pawlak) and Andreas, a son, Benjamin.

LEVETT-SCRIVENER - On 23rd November 1997, to Rosanne, wife of Nicholas, a son.

LUCAS - On November 20th at The Portland Hospital, to Caroline (née Ottewell) and Charles, a son, Max Louis Hastings.

MACONOCHIE - On November 20th at The Portland Hospital, to Georgina (née Smithson) and Jamie, a daughter, India Lily.

MILLS - On November 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Jeanette (née Patterson) and Edward, a son, Charles, a brother for Sophie.

PHILLIPS - On November 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Sarah (née Latham) and Guy, a daughter, Sophie Doris Van Der Ben, a sister for Emma.

POPOW - On November 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Ketty and Stanislas, a daughter, Livia, a sister for Alizee and Valeria.

POPPLEWELL - On November 21st 1997, to Sally and Alex, a daughter, Eleanor Sophie Tertia, a sister for Victoria and Camilla.

SAMPLE - On Friday November 21st, to Charles and Fiona (née Nash), finally a daughter, Matilda, a sister for Ed and Archie.

SHELTON-AGAR - On 21st November 1997, to Sarah (née Burge) and Michael, a daughter, Alice Jemima.

SKALA - On November 21st at The Portland Hospital, to Ann (née Thomas) and Justin, a son, James Thomas.

SPRINGTHORPE - On November 20th, to Karen (née Van Poznak) and Nigel, a son, Nicholas, a brother for Christopher.

WALTER - On November 21st at The Portland Hospital, to Ginny and Kevin, a son, Michael Harrison, our first child.

WARLING - On November 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Maria and Andrew, a daughter, Katie Rachel, a sister for Daniel.

WOJTKE - On November 19th at Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Singapore, to Madelyn (née Bonner) and Nicholas, a daughter, Chase Bonner.

MARRIAGES

SAPER:SHEEHAN - A marriage between Michael Saper of Gerrards Cross and Eileen Sheehan of Northampton took place at the Thames Valley Nuffield Hospital, Wexham, Bucks. on Friday 21st November 1997.

DEATHS

ALLARDICE - Anthony Robert died unexpectedly at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital on November 11th. Beloved husband of Anne and greatly missed by children Charles, John and Anne and stepson Rupert.

ARTHUR - (Gladys) Raina. Peacefully on November 23rd in her 86th year. Beloved wife of the late Leonard and mother of Gavyn and the late Compton. Private family funeral. Flowers and enquiries to T. Cribb and Sons 0171 476 1855.

BARLOW - On 23rd November 1997 after a long illness characteristically borne with courage Dr. Kenneth Green-Armytage Barlow MBE of Thorne, Yorkshire, aged 90 years. Beloved husband of Erena and treasured father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service at St Nicholas Church, Thorne on Friday 28th November at 2 pm followed by private burial. Family flowers only by request but donations if desired to Armitage Funeral *Services, 3a Field Road*, Thorne, Doncaster DN8 4AG, for the Thorne Branch of The Soldiers Sailors and Airmens Families Association or The Royal British Legion.

BATES - On November 21st peacefully after a short illness Allen Edward of Allen Bates & Co. Funeral Service at St John's Church, Hyde Park Crescent, London W2 at 11 am Friday November 28th. Family flowers only please. Donations and enquiries to Leverton & Sons Ltd, 212 Eversholt Street, London NW1 1BD.

BRAMWELL - Margaret, wife of Robert, mother of Alison, Eve and Angus. Suddenly and peacefully on 22nd November. Memorial Service at Coombe Bissett Church 2.30 pm on 27th November. Donations if desired to Salisbury and District Osteoporosis Society c/o I.N. Newman, Griffin House, 55 Winchester Street, Salisbury SP1 1HL.

CARTER - On November 23rd 1997, peacefully, Eric Edward, beloved husband of Olive, remarkable father of Geoffrey, Graham and Gregory and loving grandfather of Richard, Charlotte and Alexander. Funeral Service Tuesday, December 2nd, 2 pm at Bournemouth Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations for Radiotherapy Equipment Fund, Poole Hospital, may be sent to Deric-Scott, Portman Lodge Funeral Home, Bournemouth BH7 6AN.

CULLERNE-BOWN - Lititia (née Currie) aged 64 passed away peacefully on 18th November 1997. The service will be held at St John the *Baptist Parish Church*, Old Town, Croydon on 2nd December 1997 at 1 pm. She had a full and wonderful life, her children Tiva and Stanley will miss her deeply and love her always.

DESMOND - On November 19th Andrew More aged 85. Much loved husband of Diana, father to Jennifer, Anthony, and Kevin, and grandfather. Funeral at Torquay Crematorium on Friday November 28th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Cancer Research Campaign c/o J. & G. Perrott, 15 Dancombe Street, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1LR.

DUNN - Geoffrey Edward Dunn CBE, beloved husband of the late Vida, died peacefully on November 23rd 1997 at Westerham Place R.H. aged 88. Funeral Service at 10.15am on Tuesday December 2nd at Bromley Parish Church, followed by private cremation at 11.30am at Beckenham Crematorium. Memorial Service to be arranged, details to be announced shortly. No flowers please. Donations if desired to RNLI c/o Francis Chappell & Sons, *231 High Street, Bromley*, Kent BR1 1NZ.

EWINS - Harold (Jimmy) dearest husband of Angela, father and grandfather, died peacefully at Seaton Hospital on November 20th 1997. Former Headmaster of Summerhill Court, Haywards Heath. Funeral Service at St. Gregory's Church, Seaton, Devon on Thursday 27th November at 2.00 p.m.

FAIRER-SMITH - John, died peacefully on Tuesday 18th November following a short but courageous fight against illness. A man for all seasons, he touched the *lives of so many with his* warmth, friendship and generosity. His indomitable spirit will never be forgotten. Greatly loved and sadly missed by Gwen, Robert, Vanessa and all members of his extended family. Funeral Service at 11.30am on Friday 28th November at Christ Church, Chelsea, Christchurch Street, London SW3. Instead of flowers, donations can be made to BSAP Trust, 5 Winksley Grove, Harrogate, N. Yorkshire, HG3 2SZ.

FIELD - Maud of Halesowen, Worcestershire. On November 22nd, peacefully at home after a characteristically brave fight with cancer. Much loved mother of John and Mary and grandmother of Simon and Emma. Private funeral. Service of commemoration at St Kenelm's Church, Romsley on Friday 5th December at 12 noon.

FRANCES - Irma on 24th November in her 88th year, after a long illness borne with great courage and dignity. Beloved mother and mother-in-law of Jacqueline and Lewis; devoted and much loved grandmother of David, Deborah, Sara and Jonathan; and great-grandmother of Nicola and Benjamin, Joseph, Matthew and Coco, Samuel, Rachel and Joshua, and Louisa.

HARDING - On Thursday, 20th November, Doris died peacefully in Epsom General Hospital to be reunited with her loving husband Frank. Sadly missed by their daughters, Annette and Sue and their families. Funeral Service to be held at St Mary the Virgin, Ewell Village at 2pm on Monday 1st December and afterwards at Bourne Hall, Ewell. All welcome. Flowers to A & E Longhurst of Ewell.

HART - Albert Edward aged 96 peacefully on November 23rd. Much loved father and father-in-law of John and Jean, grandfather of Nicky, Sara, Julia, and Laura, and great-grandfather of Xandy, widower of Nancie. Funeral at 10.20 am at Salisbury Crematorium on Friday November 28th. The care shown by all the staff at The Royal Hampshire County Hospital Winchester is much appreciated.

HICKMAN - Wilfred Ian Edward Hickman J.P. aged 81 years of Clifton Manor, Rugby, died peacefully in Clifton Court Nursing Home on November 22nd 1997. Dearly loved and loving husband of Muriel for 57 years. Funeral private.

HOLDSWORTH - Suddenly on Tuesday 18th November at her home after a short illness Diana Holdsworth. Beloved wife of the late David Holdsworth, former Chief Constable of the Thames Valley Police. Funeral on Monday 1st December 1997 11.30 am at the Holy Cross, *Ramsbury*. This will be followed by interment at All Saints *Churchyard, Spelsbury*, Oxon. for close family members. Family flowers only please. Donations if wished for the Thames Valley Police Benevolent Fund and sent to A.E. Smith & Son, Queens Drive, Swindon, SN3 1AW, tel: (01793) 522023. Diana will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

KENNY - Nan Capell. Peacefully on November 23rd dearly beloved wife of the late Thomas. Devoted sister to John Blanche and much loved mother and grandmother to Simon (deceased) Deirdre, *Thamasin, Matthew* and Christian.

KISSIN - Harry, Lord Kissin of Camden, November 22nd peacefully surrounded by his family, mourned by his devoted wife Ruth, children and grandchildren. Funeral took place yesterday. No flowers. Donations if desired to Boys Town, Jerusalem.

LIGHTFOOT - George Cecil CBE. Died peacefully on November 21st at Riverhill Nursing Home, Woodbridge. Beloved husband of Ghetal for 62 years, much loved father of Nicola and James, and adored grandpa of *George, Rosie and Harry*. Funeral on Saturday November 29th at 12 noon at St Mary's Church, Market Hill, Woodbridge. No flowers by request, but donations may be made to East Suffolk Association for the Blind c/o E.B. Button & Sons Ltd, 24 St John's Street, Woodbridge, IP12 1EB.

MANN - Margaret Lilla Fanny, died peacefully at home on November 20th aged 85. Much loved widow of Edgar and mother of Gillian, Martin and John. Funeral at noon on Friday 28th November at St Mary the Virgin, Kingston St Mary, Taunton, Somerset. Family flowers only please.

MATHEWS - Joan (née Balson), widow of Gerald Boyd Mathews, on 18th November 1997 peacefully in Worthing. Private funeral.

MELVILLE - Frank John died peacefully on 22nd November 1997 at home after a long illness. Retired Time Magazine correspondent, dearly loved husband of Margot and father of Georgina, Fiona and Fleur. Grandfather of Nathalie and Gabriella. Frank will be very widely missed. Family flowers or donations to Cancer Research.

MICHIE - Brenda May died November 18th, beloved wife of Joseph, mother of John, Liz and Alison, mother-in-law to Nina, grandmother of Catherine and Alex. We will always miss you. Rest in peace.

MILLER - Clark died suddenly on 17th November aged 38. Beloved husband of Sue, devoted father of Ella and Jamie and much loved son of Amy and Jimmy and brother of Ken. Will be greatly missed by all. Funeral Service, St Luke's Church, Knights Hill, West Norwood SE27 on November 27th at 10.15 am. Family flowers only. Donations to The British Heart Foundation and Sports for the Disabled c/o A. Yeatman & Sons, 384 Norwood Road, West Norwood SE27 9AA. Tel: (0181) 670-1127.

MILLS - Andre Michèle of Petersfield, Hampshire, died peacefully in her sleep at King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, on 21st November 1997. Widow of John, beloved mother of Dominique and grandmother of Alexis and Josephine. Cremation at Chichester Crematorium at 1 pm Friday 28th November to which close family friends are invited. No flowers by request. Donations, if desired, to Help the Aged c/o Funeral Services Petersfield Ltd., 19 The Square, Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 3HR. Tel: 01730 262711.

OLDREY - Olive Seymour, greatly loved mother of Tim, on Sunday 23rd November in London, aged 87. Private funeral but donations may be sent to The Friends of St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, London W2 1NY.

PETTER - *On November 21st* 1997 peacefully at Greengates Nursing Home, Oxford, Geoffrey aged 85. Dear husband of the late Rita, beloved father of Hugh and a much loved grandfather of Oliver and William. He will be very sadly missed by his family and friends. Cremation at Oxford Crematorium on Thursday November 27th at 3.15 pm. Church Service at a later date.

POWELL - Reginald Jones died peacefully at home on 21st November aged 81, beloved husband of Beryl. Funeral 1.45 pm Friday 28th November, St James' U.R.C. Buckhurst Hill.

REID OF SHANDWICK - Nevile, peacefully at Mull Hall Retirement Home, on November 22nd 1997, aged 91 years, husband of the late Joan and devoted father of Nevile, Simon, Gill, Merlyn and of Andrew (deceased) and a much loved grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral at St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Tain on Friday November 28th at 2 pm. Thereafter to Logie Easter Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu for the *Highland* Hospice, c/o Alasdair Rhind, Funeral Director, 18, Knockbreck Avenue, Tain IV19 1LY.

ROBERTSON - Keith Frank Bouchier, on 24th November 1997 beloved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral 12 noon Monday 1st December, St. Denys's Church, Stanford-in-the-Vale. Donations to International League for the Protection of Horses. Enquiries to 01367 240572.

STUBBS - Vivian Harry George (Harold) on November 20th 1997. Funeral Service at St Luke's Church, Duston, Northampton on Thursday 27th November at 12.30 pm.

THOMAS - Reverend William John (Jack), November 20th 1997, suddenly but peacefully at Glan Clwyd Hospital aged 86 years of Bro Gain, Pen-y-Cefn Road, Caerwys, nr. Holywell, North Wales. Beloved husband of the Rey. Devoted father of Jenni, Gill and Roger, treasured Taid of Mollie, Henry, Matthew, Rachael and Emma and fond brother of Priscilla and Del. Public service at St Michael's Church, Caerwys on Thursday November 27th at 11.30 am followed by interment for family only at the graveside. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu will be kindly accepted towards St Michael's Church, Caerwys per Ivor Howatson & Son, Funeral Directors, Ruthin Road, Denbigh. Tel: (01746) 812061.

THOMPSON - Arthur Spencer Guy (late Senior Partner Vivien Grey) died peacefully November 23rd 1997 at Ballamona Hospital, Isle of Man, after a long illness borne with courage, humour and dignity, adored and loving husband of Dařiree, loving father of Gavin and John. The funeral will be held at Malew Parish Church at 12 noon on Thursday 27th November 1997. Family flowers only by request. Donations if so desired to Cronk Coar B Comforts Fund, Ballamona Hospital, Isle of Man. Enquiries to T.S. Keggen & Son Ltd, Funeral Directors, Port St Mary, 01624 833133.

TOBIAS - Gerald Joseph, retired Civil Servant. Late of The Cabinet Office and Department of the Environment. Died peacefully in Bournemouth 21st November 1997. Devoted husband, father and grandfather. Will be remembered with love, forever mourned and deeply missed by all his family and large circle of friends here and abroad.

TREVALDWYN - Owain Cresswell died peacefully on 21st November, dearly loved husband of Pat and father of Julian and grandfather to Jack and Harry. "A Great Fisherman".

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

BADGER - A Thanksgiving Service for the life and work of Stephen Tarrant Badger, who died suddenly at home on 14th November 1997, will be held on Monday, 8th December at 2.30 pm, at Christ's Chapel, Gallery Road, Dulwich Village, SE21. No flowers please, but donations, if desired, to 'The Friends of Stoke Orchard Church', c/o 154, Burbage Road, London SE21 7AG.

HEATHCOAT AMORY - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Joyce, Lady Heathcoat Amory will be held at St Peter's Church, Tiverton, Devon on Friday 12th December at 12 noon. Enquiries: 01884 254899.

SOUTHWARD - A Thanksgiving Service for the late Sir Ralph Southward KCVO will be held at The Queen's Chapel Of The Savoy on Tuesday 9th December at 12 noon.

STEPHEN - Susannah Alice (Zannah). The Thanksgiving Service to celebrate the life of Susannah Stephen arranged for Saturday, 29th November at 11.30 am will now take place at Killearn Kirk, and not as previously intimated.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

SMITH - G.O. The greatest ever centre-forward (1893-1901), Corinthian and Cricketer, Charterhouse, Keble, Headmaster of Ludgrove School, Gentleman and gentle Player on the 125th Anniversary of his birth. To his immortal memory. Edward Grayson.

BIRTHDAYS

TO announce the first Birthday of Miss Freya Skye Wentworth-Stanley, the daughter of Cindy Palmano & William Wentworth-Stanley. Zero plus one, happy birthday darling.

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OBITUARIES

MAJOR-GENERAL JOHN DOUGLAS-WITHERS

Major-General John Douglas-Withers, CBE, MC, died on November 3 aged 77. He was born on December 11, 1919.

A loyal servant of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, John Douglas-Withers was an able and courageous professional soldier. Committed to the highest standards, he was never happier than when training his officers and men on exercises which were demanding, realistic and, above all, fun.

Throughout the war he served as a forward observation officer (FOO) in the 113rd Field Regiment, which played a decisive part in the fighting at Salerno and in the ensuing Italian campaign. At a time when casualties among forward observation officers with infantry battalions were high, he led a charmed life, earning the confidence and respect of the 2nd/6th and 2nd/7th Queens, whom he supported throughout most of the campaign.

56th Division did not join the Eighth Army until it had reached Tunisia in March 1943, when Douglas-Withers was detached as an FOO to 4th Indian Division in order to gain combat experience. He took part in and survived the battles of the Mareth Line, Wadi Akarit and Enfidaville before returning to his own division for the invasion of Italy in September 1943, his regiment landing on the beaches at Salerno. Again, he survived that battle, which Wellington would have called "a damned close-run thing" — the combined British and American landing forces almost being driven back to their ships.

Thereafter, he fought continuously with 56th Division, participating in the crossings of the Volturno and Garigliano rivers, the battle of Monte Camino, the grim fighting at Anzio and the breaching of the Gothic Line, followed by the debilitating winter battles across the flooded river lines south of the River Po.

The action for which he was awarded his MC occurred on the night of October 22-23, 1943. He was acting as FOO to a battalion attacking a hill feature north of the Volturno. While the battalion was consolidating on its objective, German counter-attacks began, and he was forced to withdraw his observation post party into a company position where he found its commander severely wounded and with no other officers left. In the midst of heavy German artillery and mortar fire, he took command of the company while continuing to direct artillery defensive fire. But for his quick grasp of the situation and his prompt action, the position might well have been lost.

John Keppel Ingold Douglas-Withers was born into a military family. His father was Lieutenant-Colonel H. H. ("Bunny") Douglas-Withers, commanding officer of 1st Battalion, the South Lancashire Regiment. Bunny Douglas-Withers was an extrovert communicator, who produced some of the more elaborate military displays of the interwar years, including the Aldershot Tattoo on Rushmoor Arena.

Educated at Shrewsbury School, Christ Church, Oxford, and the University of Poitiers, John Douglas-Withers became an associate of the Institute of Linguistics in French and German. He undertook a 1,000-mile cycling holiday in 1938 through Europe, including witnessing Hitler's *Anschluss* in Austria. Commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1940, he was posted to 113rd Field Regiment.

After the war and gunnery staff training, he formed the new signals wing at the School of Artillery, moving on to run the first trials of helicopters as Air OPs. By 1948 he was commanding E Battery of 1st Royal Horse Artillery in the Canal Zone of Egypt and later became its adjutant. The Staff College, Camberley, followed in 1950, whence he became GSO 2 in Military Operations 3 (MO 3) in the War Office, dealing with the Middle East. He moved next to Germany to join 3rd RHA in 1953, but found that his posting had been switched to The King's Troop.

Such an appointment was the dream of every horse-minded gunner. Although maintaining the impeccable standards required of The King's Troop was demanding work, he found he could hunt regularly besides taking part in showjumping, hunter trials and point to points. After enjoying three pleasant and rather old-fashioned years, he returned to the Staff College as an instructor in 1956, and was promoted brevet lieutenant-colonel (a form of accelerated promotion) in 1958.

Returning for a short spell of regimental duty in 1959, he commanded G Battery (Mercer's Troop) in 4th RHA before becoming Assistant Military Secretary in the War Office (1961-62), responsible for staffing promotions and postings of full colonels and brigadiers.

At last senior enough to be given substantive regimental command, he took over the excellent, but perhaps over-serious, 49th Field Regiment at Lippstadt in Germany. He commented on its efficiency by saying: "All I had to do was to take off the brakes, encourage laughter and enjoy myself."

After attending the Imperial Defence College in 1965, he was appointed to command 6th Armoured Brigade at Munster in Germany in the following year. He considered this to be the high point of his career, when he could use his skills as a trainer of soldiers for the last time. He was particularly proud of the performance of his brigade on one of the early German corps exercises where it excelled.

At the end of his command, he stayed on in Germany as Chief of Staff, 1st British Corps, at Bielefeld. The illness of the Corps Commander threw an additional burden on his shoulders during the busy period of 1968-70. He was appointed CBE in 1969. Although a touch disappointed not to be given a division in 1970, he settled down to command the large South-West District.

His last army job was Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Personnel & Logistics) in the Ministry of Defence. He was involved not only in the crises of the early 1970s in Malta, Honduras and Uganda, but also in the perennial struggle with the Government to maintain the principle of comparability in the Armed Forces pay negotiations.

After he retired from the Army in 1974, he joined Jardine Matheson in Hong Kong, which he described as "one of the nicest regiments I have ever been in". He retired again in 1980 but continued to work for the company part-time, helping Lord Blake to write the history of Jardine's. He kept in close touch with the Royal Regiment of Artillery as a Colonel Commandant, a member of the Master Gunner's Committee and as Honorary Colonel of 49th Field Regiment.

He married Sylvia (Dickie) Beatrice Dean in 1945. She survives him, together with a son and a daughter, the former of whom is the present Director Royal Artillery.

JORGE MAS CANOSA

Jorge Mas Canosa, leader of Miami's Cuban exile community, died from lung cancer on November 23 aged 58. He was born in Santiago de Cuba on September 21, 1939.

JORGE MAS CANOSA was a millionaire businessman and for nearly two decades the driving force behind opposition to Fidel Castro among Cuban exiles in the United States. He was the chairman and co-founder of the Cuban American National Foundation, a powerful exile group which has played a key role in shaping Washington's unbending policy of opposition towards the Castro regime.

His passionate, crusading style of politics won him many admirers in the Cuban exile community, while his relentless dedication to the cause of a "free Cuba" secured him the respect of political leaders in Washington and abroad. Mas Canosa's influence was further assured by the large sums of campaign cash raised by the foundation and its wealthy members.

The son of a Cuban army veterinarian, Jorge Mas Canosa left Cuba as a student in 1960, after Castro's communist revolution. In Miami he trained for the failed Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 but never made it ashore. He briefly joined the US Army but resigned his commission. He had various jobs — milkman, stevedore, shoe salesman and dishwasher — before he went into business.

In 1968 he bought a small electrical contracting business and later merged with a construction firm to create MasTec. Last year the company's earnings reached almost $500 million. A survey in March by *Hispanic Business* magazine estimated Mas Canosa's personal worth at $257 million and placed him fifth in its list of the richest Hispanics in the US.

Mas Canosa's political profile took off with the Cuban American National Foundation, founded in 1981, to lobby Congress against a negotiated solution with the Castro Government. With more than 50,000 members, the foundation is by far the most powerful organisation in the exile community, and its board of directors includes some of the country's richest and most influential Cubans.

Through its Free Cuba political action committee, the foundation has poured more than $4.2 million into the campaign coffers of congressional and presidential candidates of both parties. The foundation successfully lobbied Congress to tighten the US embargo against Cuba, including 1996 restrictions on foreign companies trading with Cuba that put the United States at odds with its allies.

Under Mas Canosa's leadership, the foundation also persuaded Congress to pay for the creation of Radio and TV Marti, which broadcast from the United States into Cuba. Although Cuba has jammed the signal — TV Marti cannot be seen on the island — Congress continues to fund the network and has spent about $250 million keeping it on air.

With the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe in 1989, the foundation eagerly began to anticipate Castro's demise. Mas Canosa was appointed chairman of the Florida Free Cuba Commission to advise the state Governor on the economic and social impact on South Florida of Castro's fall. The foundation drew up a constitution for Cuba and recruited American companies to join what it called a blue ribbon commission to "establish a blueprint for a free-market economy in a post-Castro Cuba".

But there were some defeats. In the summer of 1994, when Castro unleashed 30,000 rafters on South Florida, Mas Canosa flew to Washington to demand a US naval blockade of the island. He did not get his way. When the Clinton Administration secretly met Cuban officials to end the crisis through an immigration accord, it was a humiliating blow for Mas Canosa. Cubans picked up at sea would no longer be allowed into the United States, ending the special treatment they had been afforded for decades as victims of a communist regime.

But when Cuban MiGs shot down two small Miami exile aircraft in February 1996, the doors of the White House were opened again. President Clinton punished Castro by cutting off direct flights to Cuba from Miami and tightening the rules on exile families sending aid and visiting relatives in Cuba. In 1996 a new, tougher embargo law was passed.

Critics accused Mas Canosa and the foundation of going too far by using intimidation tactics to silence opponents. Mas Canosa often branded those who opposed him as communist agents of Cuba, and boasted that he could muster the US authorities against those who stood in his way.

His fiery temper also got him into trouble. He once caused a stir when he challenged a Miami city commissioner to a duel. In 1990 he lost a libel suit against his estranged younger brother, who had accused him of bribing local politicians to win lucrative public contracts for the family construction firm.

His critics saw in Mas Canosa the same dictatorial streak that characterised Castro's rule. Although his name was often mentioned as a future President of Cuba, he publicly denied any such ambition. "The only thing Jorge Mas Canosa aspires to is the liberty of Cuba," he said.

He is survived by his wife Irma, and three sons.

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LEGAL NOTICES

004536 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF BEARGRIN LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 22nd October 1997 confirming the reduction of the share capital of the above-named company from £250,000 to £100,000 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the share capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 5th November 1997.
Dated this 25th day of November 1997
Hamilton Downing, Ruskin House,
40/41 Museum Street,
London WC1A 1LT
Solicitors for the above-named Company

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
AND IN THE MATTER OF RADIAPRINT (IPSWICH) LIMITED
REGISTERED NUMBER: 01213121

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that David J Dawson and Nigel Millar of BDO Stoy Hayward, 12 Lower Brook Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 1AT, were appointed Joint Liquidators of Radiaprint (Ipswich) Limited by resolutions of members and creditors on 17 November 1997.
Creditors are required to send in their names, addresses and full particulars of their claims, to the Liquidators on or before 19 December 1997, and, if so required by notice in writing from the Liquidators are, personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such times and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
17 November 1997.
David J Dawson, Liquidator.

I-PASS ALLIANCE EUROPE LTD (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 310084

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: On 11 November 1997 the above named company was placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Martin Fishman of PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London, WC2R 2NT, was appointed Liquidator by the Members.
The Liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to Martin Fishman, PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT, by 11 January 1998.
The Liquidator also gives notice under the provision of Rule 4.182A(6) that on 11 February, 1998 he intends to make a final return to creditors who have submitted claims by 11 January, 1998, and that there will be no further distribution to creditors. The final return to creditors will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved.
The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Date: 21 November 1997
Martin Fishman, Liquidator

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF R & R (UK) LIMITED
AND THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting of the creditors of the above named company convened under the provisions of S.98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, and held on 19 November 1997, I, Malvyn Julian Carter, of Carter Backer Winter, Hill House, Highgate Hill, London, N19 5UU was duly appointed Liquidator of the company.
MJ Carter, Liquidator.
Dated this 19 November 1997.

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DR DESMOND OLIVER

Dr Desmond Oliver, nephrologist and New Zealand rugby international, died of cancer on October 25 aged 67. He was born on October 16, 1930.

DESMOND OLIVER set up the pilot artificial kidney unit in Oxford in 1967. By the time he retired in 1995, the dialysis and transplant programme was one of the largest in Europe. He was also an All Black wing forward in the 1953-54 touring side, playing in the French and Irish internationals and described as being "fast, with good hands, and a fearless tackler". This could have applied as well to his medicine as his rugby.

He was born in Palmerston North, New Zealand, and educated at a Marist Brothers School before reading medicine at the University of Otago in Dunedin. After school he did not resume his rugby until 1952, when he got himself fit by working in a freezer factory, carrying lamb carcasses. The tour over, he concentrated on his medicine, qualifying in 1955. He came to England in 1960 to gain postgraduate experience and never returned to his native country.

He worked first at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, where he encountered the terrible problems of acute and chronic renal failure in young patients. He later recalled that they almost all died, whatever treatment was attempted. He then went to Oxford to work for the Regius Professor of Medicine, Sir George Pickering, whose main interest was high blood pressure and to whom patients with renal failure were referred; little could be done for them until the development of dialysis.

Money was made available by the Department of Health to set up a pilot "artificial kidney unit", and Oliver was appointed to a consultant post. Pickering was sceptical, but with Dr John Ledingham they took on four patients with terminal renal failure in 1967, dialysed them with the crude equipment available and taught them to treat themselves at home. Three of those four patients survive.

The early experience of kidney transplantation in Oxford and elsewhere was so dismal that patients preferred the rigours of home dialysis, and the reputation of the unit was such that it grew to become one of the largest home haemodialysis programmes in the world.

Oliver's signal contribution was recognised in 1973 by his election to the fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of London. In 1974 Professor Peter Morris, a transplant surgeon and immunologist, took up the Nuffield Chair of Surgery and set up a transplant programme in Oxford. Oliver gave his unstinting support, and the majority of patients with renal failure are now maintained by a transplant rather than dialysis.

Although possessing a shrewd, analytical mind, Oliver undertook little research on his own, but enthusiastically encouraged others, participating in landmark clinical studies on renal bone disease, the use of recombinant erythropoietin, and dialysis arthropathy. He was always seeking improvements in dialysis technology.

He attracted to his unit a succession of registrars who still affectionately quote his aphorisms. Three present British professors of renal medicine learnt much of their clinical nephrology from him.

Yet he was very much a patient's doctor. Though a big man, he had a gentle, reassuring manner which won the trust of patients and their families. Given his devotion to the plight of patients with renal failure, it was ironic that he should be at the centre of a controversy about his careful decision to discontinue dialysis in a disabled patient. He acknowledged that he could have handled the matter more deftly, but the vicious attacks on him inflicted wounds that never healed.

In his little spare time he taught himself to turn wood, and produced some exquisite pieces from trees that he had felled and wood that he had aged. He would give these items away, always pointing out the flaws and apologising for their technical imperfections. This and tramping the countryside around Horton-cum-Studley with his dogs gave him respite from his work and pleasure in his brief retirement.

In 1971 he married Sheila Russell, herself a kidney patient, who survives him. There were no children.

ON THIS DAY

November 25, 1913

In an outspoken letter to The Times, the Hon Edward Lyttelton, Headmaster of Eton, questioned the quality of books available to adolescent boys and girls. This drew a robust defence of authors from the writer and playwright Eden Phillpotts

WHOLESOME BOOKS.

A REPLY TO THE HEADMASTER OF ETON

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir — Does not Dr. Lyttelton, in his appeal to the serious artists of England, overlook the object and aim of their labours and the necessity that compels them, as honest men, to justify their existence?

One is not concerned with those writers who deliberately deal with certain facts and sink to pornography for hire, since there can exist no two opinions about them, or those who publish them. But would the Headmaster of Eton interfere with the work of men who stand for the worthiest traditions and are seeking to follow in the footsteps of the masters? Are the activities of these men to be curtailed, as the anti-vivisectionist desires to limit the activity of science? Are the sole criterion and goal of a nation's literature the moral improvement of public schoolboys and their sisters?

There is much in the classics ill calculated to help the self-control of an adolescent; and it might be unseemly to display casts of the great Greek and medieval statues in an Eton class-room; but must the adult also turn his back on these models of literature and art? Because the Venus of Cnidus wears a tin petticoat at the Vatican are we to be denied Praxiteles? The serious artist is not a schoolmaster, and if dirty-minded boys secure his books in hope of improper stimulation, then let their pastors and preceptors see to it.

We artists do not contemplate the production of a "wholesome" or a "risky" book, as Dr. Lyttleton seems to suspect. A problem rises before us concerned with some human activity, or danger, or passion. We weigh it in the terms of art, whether it involve finance or politics, sex or religion; and should the vision grow and take shape and promise a live achievement, we embrace it. From that moment the matter absorbs our best energies and we devote ourselves heart and soul to the most perfect, beautiful, and compelling presentation of our problem. We are men writing for men; but England will not understand that the writing of novels and plays is man's work, no more to be hampered by the ethical or other domestic predilections of their critics, than a soldier's strategy, or a physician's prescription. No other specialists are hectored in this fashion, for the public clearly perceives that the work of most trained hands and minds can only be judged by those competent to judge it. Only the artist is at the mercy of the whole world: though the man who wants to mend his psychology and alter his plot would stand in respectful silence before the technical operations of a plumber.

We laugh at such critics and suffer them gently, knowing that our ideals lie in a region of reality, where the British public hates and fears to tread, but we must not be warned from our purposes by wise men, or by a noble text of Scripture that does not apply to us; we must not resign our birthright and lower the lamp that a Shakespeare and a Fielding held, till it glimmers, a little taper, to light the children's nurseries.

Dr. Lyttelton and those for whom he stands desire the artists to show them just as much about human nature as they care to see, or teach — and no more. But to obey that mandate would be to relinquish our trust; and we will not have any such conditions imposed upon us. The artist is in the world to give the world what it cannot possess without him, and he who merely offers what his neighbour's dim eyes can perceive for themselves has no excuse for his artistic existence.

I am, Sir, faithfully yours,
Torquay, Nov. 22. EDEN PHILLPOTTS.

هكذا من الاصل

Protecting name of product

Chocosuisse Union des Fabricants Suisses de Chocolat and Others v Cadbury Ltd

Before Mr Justice Laddie

[Judgment October 29]

For the purposes of a passing-off action, what counted was whether the words sued upon had the protectable meaning upon which the plaintiff relied: if they had, it mattered not whether they had it by accident, through prolonged endeavours, or in spite of poor husbandry by the plaintiff.

A substantial number of those members of the public, who regarded "Swiss chocolate" as the *name for a group of reputable* products, would be confused into thinking that confectionery made in Birmingham and bearing, in addition to the maker's name and logo, the words "Swiss Chalet" in larger letters, was a member of that group.

Mr Justice Laddie so held in the Chancery Division, in granting to the plaintiffs, Chocosuisse Union des Fabricants Suisses de Chocolat, a co-operative society formed under Title XXIX of the Swiss Code of Obligations, Kraft Jacobs Suchard (Schweiz) AG and Chocoladefabriken Lindt und Sprüngli AG, suing on behalf of themselves and all other persons *who manufactured chocolate in* Switzerland and exported such cholcolate to the UK, an injunction restraining Cadbury Ltd from labelling with the words "Swiss Chalet", in large gold-rimmed *letters, a new bar manufactured by* it, containing honey-flavoured milk chocolate and including small pieces of almond nougat.

Mr Simon Thorley, QC and Mr Colin Birss for the plaintiffs; Mr Michael Bloch and Mr Richard Meade for Cadbury.

MR JUSTICE LADDIE said that one of Cocosuisse's main tasks since its formation in 1945 had been to protect the denomination of origin "Swiss" against illegitimate use; to which end it had taken steps more than 600 times, mostly by warnings, with no actual proceedings before now in the UK.

Both sides had agreed the relevant principles to have been set out by Lord Fraser in *Erven Warnink BV v J. Townend & Sons (Hull) Ltd* ([1979] AC 731, 755-6) (the *Advocaat* case), of which the first was: "It is essential for the plaintiff ... to show at least ... that his business consists of, or includes, selling in England a class of goods to which the particular trade applies."

His Lordship reviewed the evidence given by members of the public and from retailers and others in the trade, and concluded that the term "Swiss chocolate" was the designation which had been used, save for very minor *exceptions, only on chocolate made* in Switzerland and in accordance with Swiss food regulations, albeit to very different recipes.

Cadbury's product, made in England, from standard dairy *milk chocolate, did not fall within* the class that could be called "Swiss chocolate".

The next issue was whether Cadbury's use of "Swiss Chalet" on its chocolate was likely to confuse a substantial number of the public into believing it was a Swiss chocolate.

His Lordship had found that issue most difficult but had concluded that, although it was likely that fewer would be confused than not, those confused would still be substantial enough in number for the plaintiffs to succeed.

Next, Cadbury had launched a heavy "unclean hands" attack on the plaintiffs for:

(a) failing to take any reasonable steps to ensure that "Swiss", in relation to chocolate, continued to denote to the public in England chocolate made in Switzerland; and

(b) relying on *Newman v Pinto* ((1887) 4 RPC 508) misleading the public into believing that chocolate, not made in Switzerland, was made there.

His Lordship thought that his approach to that attack should mirror that taken by the Court of Appeal in *Habib Bank Ltd v Habib Bank AG Zurich* ([1982] RPC 1): *namely, in relation to* estoppel, a plaintiff should fail only in those cases where the court concluded it would be unconscionable for him to get the relief to which he would otherwise be entitled.

As the market for Lindt chocolates had become international, it had set up manufacturing centres in Germany, France and possibly elsewhere, while ensuring that its products were of the same composition and quality as those made in Switzerland.

But the fact that some members of the public wrongly concluded that all Lindt chocolate came from Switzerland did not mean that it was unconscionable for Lindt to obtain relief.

The allegations made against Suchard, centring on Toblerone and a milk chocolate bar sold under the name "Milka", were even weaker.

Finally, although the ability of Lindt and Suchard to sue in a representative capacity was not disputed, Cadbury had, on the authority of *Consorzio del Prosciutto di Parma v Marks and Spencer plc* ([1991] RPC 351, the *Parma Ham* case, challenged Chocosuisse's right to sue in a representative capacity.

Chocosuisse was content to accept *Parma Ham* as correct for the time being, while reserving the right to argue the point in a higher court. His Lordship would therefore formally hold that Chocosuisse had locus standi to sue only on its own behalf.

Solicitors: Bird & Bird; Willoughby & Partners.

No negligence in following advice

Lewisham Investment Partnership Ltd and Another v *Morgan*

Before Mr Justice Neuberger

[Judgment November 4]

Although to apply the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Iceland Frozen Foods plc v Starlight Investments Ltd* ([1992] 1 EGLR 126) conflicted with the presumption that the hypothesis on which rent should be fixed on a review should bear as close a resemblance to reality as possible, so that a puisne judge would be entitled to feel himself not bound by it, a professional valuer, who, on advice by a solicitor that he was bound by it, had followed it, was not negligent in so doing.

Mr Justice Neuberger so held in the Chancery Division, in dismissing an action for damages for alleged professional negligence brought by the plaintiffs, Lewisham Investment Partnership Ltd and Riverdale Centre (Three) Ltd, against the defendant, Peter Leonard Wilton Morgan, FRICS, an independent valuer appointed by the President of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors pursuant to the terms of a lease of premises, Unit 62, vested in the plaintiffs as joint long leaseholders, of which Marks and Spencer plc was tenant.

Clause 4.9 of that lease contained a tenant's covenant "Not to ... underlet ... any part ... Provided always that with the previous consent of the landlord the tenant may underlet not more than 3 *separate* parts of the demised premises each being of an area not less than 2000 square feet."

Mr Kirk Reynolds, QC and Mr Nicholas Dowding for the plaintiffs; Mr Michael Douglas for Mr Morgan.

MR JUSTICE NEUBERGER said that the plaintiffs, whose expert's valuation, employing four zones, of the market rental of Unit 62 as at July 3, 1993 had been £430,000, advanced six complaints against Mr Morgan's valuation at £250,000, including that:

(1) he should have used the zoning instead of the overall method;

(2) he failed to take legal advice on whether, and how, *Iceland* was relevant to the method issue and wrongly considered that it precluded him from using the zoning method;

(3) he failed to take into account that under the terms of the hypothetical lease to be valued, for rent review purposes, the tenant would be permitted to underlet Unit 62.

It might be inferred from *Craneheath Securities v York Montague Ltd* ([1996] 1 EGLR 130); *Mount Banking Corporation Ltd v Brian Cooper and Co* ([1992] 2 EGLR 142, 144-5, 149) and *Singer and Friedlander v John D. Wood and Co* ([1977] 2 EGLR 84, 85) that where the negligence of a valuation was in issue, the court should carry out its own valuation and decide on the permissible bracket either side of it. If it fell within that bracket the claim would fail; if not, absent special circumstances, it should succeed.

However in *Zubaida v Hargreaves* ([1995] 1 EGLR 127, 128) *Lord Justice Hoffmann had said,* with his brethren's agreement: "Valuation is not an exact science; it involves questions of judgment on which experts might differ without forfeiting their claim to professional competence...

"The issue is not whether the expert's valuation was right; in the sense of being a figure which a judge after hearing the evidence would determine. It is whether he has acted in accordance with practices which are regarded as acceptable by a respectable body of opinion in his profession."

Yet one could imagine a case where a valuer's overall figure fell, *without negligence, well outside* the permissible bracket.

His Lordship, after analysing the evidence on (1) taken on its own, rejected (1) on its own, essentially because the plaintiffs' expert had accepted that in the absence of success on complaints (2) and (3), he could not say that no reasonable expert could have assessed Unit 62 on the overall method.

He said that Mr Morgan said he had taken the view that *Iceland* precluded him from taking into account the fact that the hypothetical, like the actual, tenant could convert Unit 62 into two or more self-contained units, up to three of which could be sublet.

But the rent review clause required Mr Morgan to value Unit 62 as it was, subject to express disregard of tenant's improve*ments, assuming that it was* let on the terms of the lease.

Dealing with comparable lease conditions in *Iceland*, Lord Justice Dillon had countered the landlord's counsel's argument that the right to subdivide there involved *merely* hypothetical alterations, and hence was unaffected by the lease's instruction to disregard actual tenant's improvements, by saying (at p128): "But it seems to me to make nonsense of the rent review clause as drawn and of the aim that the rent on review should be fixed so as to pay as close a resemblance to reality as possible, if it is not possible to charge rent *for actual* improvements but is possible to charge for hypothetical improvements which have never been carried out."

That reasoning confused "rentalising improvements" (expressdly forbidden) with "rentalising a right to make improvements" (a valuable reality).

Mr Justice Hoffmann had said in *Norwich Union v Trustee Savings Bank* ([1986] 1 EGLR 136, 137) there was "a presumption that the hypothesis upon which the rent should be fixed upon a review *should* bear as close a resemblance to reality as possible".

It was well established that a judicial conclusion as to the meaning of words in one document was neither binding nor conclusive as to the meaning of even very similar words in another document: see *Pioneer Shipping Ltd v BTP Tioxide Ltd* ([1982] AC 724, 749), *Aspden v Seddon* ((1875) LR 10 Ch App 394, 396, 397-8) and *Equity and Law plc v Bodfield Ltd* ([1987] 1 EGLR 124, 125).

In the circumstances, his Lordship would have held it clearly right to assess the market rent of *Unit* 62 on the basis that the hypothetical tenant could be someone who wanted to subdivide Unit 62.

But the fact that, if it had been up to his Lordship to assess the market rent of Unit 62, he would have been prepared to decline to follow *Iceland*, did not assist the plaintiffs, for Mr Morgan had secured legal advice on the proper interpretation of *Iceland* from a partner in Titmuss Sainer Deichert, who had clearly advised Mr Morgan that he was bound by it.

In *those* circumstances, no case of negligence had been made out against Mr Morgan in respect of any of the complaints made.

Solicitors: Nabarro Nathanson; Hammond Suddards.

No appeal against second decision

Regina v Special Adjudicator, Ex parte Secretary of State for the Home Department

Before Mr Justice Lightman

[Judgment October 22]

A person claiming political asylum had no right of appeal against a decision by the Secretary of State for the Home Department that his second application for asylum was not a fresh application and therefore would *not* be further entertained.

Mr Justice Lightman, sitting as an additional judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held in a reserved judgment granting the *application of the Home Secretary* for a declaration that the special adjudicator had no jurisdiction to hear the purported appeal of Mr Mahmut Cakabay, a person seeking political asylum, and that his purported notice of appeal had no effect.

The special adjudicator played *no active part in the proceedings.* The application was opposed by Mr Cakabay, as an interested party.

Mr Richard Plender, QC and Ms Eleanor Grey for the secretary of state; Mr Andrew Nicol, QC and *Mr Mark Henderson for Mr* Cakabay.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that the special adjudicator had jurisdiction to hear only those appeals contained in section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993.

He also had jurisdiction to decide whether an intended appeal fell within that jurisdiction. The jurisdiction was triggered when a notice of appeal was duly served.

The adjudicator had to decide whether the secretary of state had taken a decision specified in section 8 of the 1993 Act. That did not include the rejection to the claim of asylum *itself*.

Under the statutory scheme there could have been no decision within section 8 if there had been no fresh application by Mr Cakabay.

The critical issue was not whether the special adjudicator had jurisdiction to decide whether *the asylum-seeker had made a* fresh application, but the legal test to be applied by the adjudicator in deciding whether he had jurisdiction to hear the appeal.

The secretary of state argued that the test was whether he *himself had decided that there was* no fresh application, for that was conclusive.

Mr Cakabay argued that the test was whether the special adjudicator considered that there was a fresh application.

His Lordship reviewed the relevant authorities. It was established *that an asylum-seeker could make* more than one claim for asylum but only if the later claim was a fresh claim, sufficiently different from the earlier to admit of a realistic prospect of its success.

Under Rule 346 of the Immigration Rules (HC 395), the secretary of state decided whether the ap*plicant's further representations* should be treated as a fresh application.

That raised the question whether an appeal lay to the special adjudicator against the decision of the secretary of state that a claim was not a fresh claim. His Lordship observed that he was *not bound by authority in deciding* that question.

In his Lordship's view, no appeal lay to the special adjudicator for the following reasons. A decision not to treat representations as a fresh application was not a *decision falling within section 8*, and therefore did not trigger the adjudicator's jurisdiction.

Unless and until the secretary of state had accepted that the claim was fresh, there was no occasion for making any decision falling within section 8. Both a fresh application and an adverse de*cision on that application* were required to trigger the right of appeal under section 8.

Although the fact that the refusal to treat further representations as a fresh application might have the same practical effect for the applicant as an adverse decision which fell within section 8, that did *not mean that it was such an* adverse decision or that it had the like legal consequences in respect of a right of appeal.

Parliament could have conferred on an applicant a right of appeal in respect of a decision that an application was not fresh but it did not do so. His Lordship accord*ingly concluded that the judgment* whether or not there had been a fresh application was for the secretary of state alone to make.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Howe & Co, Ealing.

No change in vocation in change of hours

Edmunds v Coleman (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Mr Justice Lightman

[Judgment November 4]

For the purposes of Schedule D income tax, a taxpayer who *changed from carrying on his* business activities on a part-time basis to a full-time basis did not effect a discontinuance of his previous vocation and the commencement of a new one.

Mr Justice Lightman so held in the Chancery division in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by way of case stated by the taxpayer, Mr Timothy Edmunds, from a determination in July 1997 of Maidstone general commissioners.

Mr Jeremy Woolf for the taxpayer; Mr Timothy Brennan for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN *said* that the taxpayer *was* a television producer and had been employed as such by TVS Ltd. That employment had taken up only about 40 per cent of his working time and he had spent 60 per cent of his time working freelance. His employment ended in 1992 and thereafter he worked freelance on a full-time basis, his profits from that work increasing enormously after June 1992.

The commissioners had held *that "the change from the taxpayer* conducting business activities on a part-time basis to his full-time engagement in business was of such a character that a new profession was commenced".

That decision could only be disturbed if it was one which they could not properly reach on the evidence. *They had accepted that* the taxpayer provided the same services throughout, the only difference being in the hours spent and the profitability of his endeavours.

As a matter of law, the intensification by a person carrying on a vocation or profession of his efforts *or the increase in the return for his* efforts could not effect a discontinuance of his previous, and the commencement of a new, vocation or profession.

What was required for such purposes was a material change in the character, or the "essence" as it had sometimes been called, of his pursuit. The natural development or organic growth of his business or practice was not sufficient: see *Rolls-Royce Motors Ltd v Bamford* ((1976) 51 TC 319).

Mr Brennan placed great weight on Form 41G, submitted on the taxpayer's behalf in 1992 and specifying April 1992 as the date on which a new business commenced. The taxpayer had said that that had been inaccurately completed and should be ignored.

If the commissioners had lent any weight to the admission contained in that form it would have been quite wrong for them to have done so. The admission was of no assistance where the primary facts, namely that the taxpayer carried on business exactly as before save only more intensively and successfully, were clearly stated. The only conclusion from those primary facts required the appeal to be allowed.

Solicitors: Brachers, Maidstone; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

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Too much support swamps recipients

By Rodney Hobson

A SENIOR banker has called for organisations such as Business Links and training and enterprise councils to be replaced by a single private-sector body.

Small businesses are in danger of being swamped by the current fragmented support service, fears Peter Ibbetson, of National Westminster Bank. It means that even banks are not sure where to send small businesses for advice.

In the latest *In Business*, the bank's newsletter, he says: "Everyone, it seems, wants to help small businesses. I am, however, concerned that small businesses may be in danger of being swamped by the number of organisations that exist to support them. In addition to the Chambers of Commerce movement, the last Government created the twin structures of Business Links and training and enterprise councils in England and Wales and local enterprise companies in Scotland.

"While all of their work is valuable, the fragmented nature and sometimes variable quality of help means that businesses do not always know where to turn. As bankers, we do not always have a credible option to suggest to customers."

Mr Ibbetson, head of NatWest's small business services, argues that businesses facing growing competition want specialised services "that cannot be met by an inefficient support network". He welcomes a suggestion by the British Chambers of Commerce for a new style of chamber streamlined to include many of the activities currently carried out by several bodies.

"Well, if I pay you 'to do all the worrying' for me, how come it's me that keeps getting the ulcers?"

Welsh firms show how to bring on graduates

Three small companies enjoy the benefit, says Iola Smith

Small businesses in Wales are being encouraged to expand by employing graduates.

"The talent, drive and capability of graduates can really help small companies improve their competitiveness by bringing innovative ideas to the marketplace," said Iain Willox, skills development director of the Welsh Development Agency (WDA) and instigator of the Graduate Wales initiative.

Traditionally small businesses have not recruited from universities. However, the WDA is convinced that it is essential for them to do so now, given the increasingly competitive marketplace. Among the companies to benefit is Remedy Computer Services of Bangor, a software business established in 1993 by three graduates from Bangor University. The staff has grown to nine through the employment of graduates.

"We take the graduates' basic academic skills and put a commercial edge on them," explained David Fennah, Remedy's commercial director.

"Initial training takes from three to five months, because we take personnel development really seriously, as people's skills are the bedrock of our business."

Among the company's customers are BT, ICL and the Inland Revenue. Mr Fennah said: "It is vitally important that Remedy keeps ahead of new software languages. Training in language development is essential for new recruits."

Graduate recruitment is not limited to information technology projects, however. Remedy also uses them in administration and marketing.

Improving marketing opportunities is also the objective of the Royal Oak Hotel, Welshpool, in seeking graduate assistance.

A family business for almost 70 years, Margaret and Robert Landgrebe, its third-generation owners, sought to develop the Royal Oak into one of Wales's top three-star hotels. Management had to aim for more ambitious business targets. "I had done the marketing on a part-time basis, but I felt we needed some additional expertise," said Mr Landgrebe. "A full-time marketing person was a luxury I thought we could not afford. Then I was introduced to the idea of short-term graduate placement, which seemed an ideal way to accelerate our business development plans at a modest cost and risk."

The hotel has two graduates working on 12-week placements. The first of these, who is responsible for advertising the hotel and developing new attractions within it, will be offered a full-time position as marketing manager when the placement is completed.

Improving exports is Metpost's intention in recruiting graduates. This family-owned business manufacturers steel bases for fence posts in Cardiff and recruited Sylvain Beree, a French national, to help to increase sales in France.

The success of that venture has encouraged the company to take on a Japanese graduate to raise the company's profile in Japan. The hope is that the project will emulate the French success.

These three companies illustrate how small businesses can utilise graduates' skills. And in doing so, they benefit themselves, as well as providing welcome employment for the graduates.

Fortunately for both small businesses and academia the message is getting across. Last year, when the Graduate Initiative began, small businesses in Wales took on 150 graduates on a full-time basis and offered short-term contracts to a further 300.

> ❛ We take the graduates' basic academic skills and put a commercial edge on them ❜

Graduate training and development at Remedy Computer Services

Accelerating business growth at the Royal Oak Hotel

Kall Kwik founder urges Beckett to back franchising

By Rodney Hobson

A CALL for the Government and the big banks to put £10 million over five years into making Britain a world leader in franchising has been made to Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade.

The funding would pay for research into the needs of franchisers and franchisees, training, and raising public awareness of business opportunities in the sector. The submission also asks for more tax breaks for franchise start-ups.

The author is Moshe Gerstenhaber, chairman and founder of Kall Kwik Printing, one of the best-known names in British franchising. Mr Gerstenhaber was a member of the council of the British Franchise Association for ten years.

He said: "I am disappointed that we in the UK are content to allow the relatively leisurely pace of development and growth of franchising to continue. The potential benefits that franchising has to offer to the UK economy and its small business community are far greater than has been realised. Unless we undertake more drastic action now, the UK will never tap the value of this asset to the full."

Mr Gerstenhaber claimed that investment in franchising would produce greater benefits than the vast sums poured into research and development by producers of computer parts or into the promotion of consumer branded products.

Research would establish the factors that fuel growth in franchising, such as what type of person makes a successful franchisee and how these traits can be identified; the complex relationship between franchiser and franchisee; training and education; and finance.

Investing just £1 million a year in franchising would create 100,000 jobs and huge amounts of income, Mr Gerstenhaber says. Even this modest level would make the UK the centre of European franchising excellence, yet there is no specific government programme to encourage franchising, he says.

Mr Gerstenhaber praised banks for supporting franchising, but suggested that five should each put up £200,000 a year, with the Government providing matching funds. He said: "Most franchisers are fairly small companies with very limited ability to fund activity that does not provide immediate return in terms of services to their franchisees, greater sales and improved income. We are talking about infrastructure investments which are normally provided by government or by institutions with the financial strength to take the longer-term view."

A number of universities and business schools do research in isolation. Mr Gerstenhaber wants to bring them together to decide priorities and to divide the work between them.

He argues that the higher success rates of franchises compared with other start-ups justify specific tax incentives. Franchisees, including silent partners, should be able to offset the total cost of setting up, including borrowing, against income in the first year or from previous years. This could produce working capital or cut borrowings, so lowering the break-even point.

Plan now for Christmas

PLAN early for Christmas. Mike Davies, small business services director at Barclays Bank, has produced a series of seasonal tips (Rodney Hobson writes).

☐ Ensure that there are sufficient trained staff to cover the holiday period. Work rosters should be planned well in advance.
☐ Beware of increased use of fraudulent banknotes and plastic cards as fraudsters take advantage of busy staff coping with the rush.
☐ Make sure that the insurance policy covers increased stock levels, cashflow and opening hours.
☐ Consider whether any goods and services can be promoted.
☐ Plan finance needs and, if necessary, apply for extra funding.
☐ Take note of what competitors are offering and promoting.
☐ Plan stock levels to meet possible extra demand while taking care not to be left with a surplus once the rush is over.
☐ Make profits earned over Christmas work by putting them into interest-bearing accounts or investing in equipment and training. Make adequate provision to meet tax liabilities.

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هكذا من الاصل

Time to choose your £1,000 December team

The story so far . . .

It warms the heart to see football tradition upheld, doesn't it?
I know exactly what you mean. When young Frank Lampard scored that goal at Elland Road on Sunday, he went and danced round the same corner flag as his old Dad did when *he* scored the goal that put West Ham into the 1980 Cup Final. It brought a tear to the eye.
Actually, I meant your uncanny ability to select players who have nightmares the following weekend.
Now, hang on a minute . . .
Nigel Martyn, the goalkeeper that Lampard scored against, is one of yours, isn't he?
Yes, but he kept a clean sheet in the first half, and Leeds did win.
But your other Leeds man, Molenaar, didn't play, did he?
Well, that's George Graham's fault, not mine. And you're always saying that forwards I think about signing don't score, but I thought about signing Andy Booth, and he put Sheffield Wednesday ahead against Arsenal.
And *did* you sign him?
Not as such.
Big Ron did OK, though, I must admit.
As I predicted. But then players are always out to impress a new manager. It might not be so easy next week at Southampton. David Hirst is playing against Wednesday, his old club, and he'll be extra-keen to score. I'm thinking about signing him.
You've been reading the newspapers, haven't you? This is advanced strategic thinking by your standards.
Yes, but I'm getting close to my transfer limit.
Pardon me? You didn't enter the transfer market until a few weeks ago.
True, but I've gone a bit mad since then.
Don't forget you're entitled to 20 more transfers after December 13.
That's what I'm relying on.
But before then, there's another player revaluation. If you can get a couple of people in who are then revalued up, it gives you more money to play with.
Any hot insider tips?
I know no more than you do. But look at players who have exceeded expectations.
Do any examples come to mind?
The two Italians at Derby, especially Baiano, who has scored a few goals. Steve Walsh at Leicester — only £1.5 million, and he's scored 29 points. But think about unloading any players whose value might drop.
Any of my players in that category?
No more than about eleven of them, I should say . . .

Languishing in the lower reaches of the league? Fear not — a number of players leapt more than 35,000 places last week

If a week is a long time in politics, the same is even truer of Interactive Team Football. Our leaders can see their popularity ratings rise and fall; parliamentary candidates find that 21,000 or so votes can go missing; but seldom do any politicians experience a rise as meteoric as that of Mr T. Gregory, of Belper, in Derbyshire. In seven days, his ITF team, Alton Wanders, on the back of a 40-point weekend, jumped no fewer than 38,678 places in the main ITF listings, taking him from 109,244th to the comparatively lofty heights of 70,566th.

For some of Mr Gregory's players, Saturday was indeed a day of fantasy football. Although Peter Schmeichel, his overall top points-scorer, had a relatively poor weekend, managing only one point, Arjan De Zeeuw and Des Walker, his central defenders, both enjoyed rare victories and even rarer clean sheets; Jeff Kenna of Blackburn Rovers and Celtic's Tommy Boyd, the full-backs, were both on winning sides. Three of his midfield players, Neil Ardley of Wimbledon, Nicky Butt of Manchester United and Stefano Eranio of Derby, scored goals, the last two in victories, while Derby's win over Coventry City was also worth three points to Jim Smith, Mr Gregory's choice as manager.

The only player who made no contribution over the weekend was Trond Egil Solvedt, of Coventry City, who did not play. If Stan Collymore's "goal" for Aston Villa against Everton had not been disallowed for offside, who knows how much further he might have climbed?

To some extent, ease of movement up or down the table all depends on your position in the league. A higher score than Mr Gregory's, 43 by Mr M. Earley's Earleybirds, resulted in a jump of only 33,963 places, to 44,721st.

The higher up the lists you are, the stiffer the competition. For example, Mr Gregory's 40 points would have given last week's fifth-placed team no more than a share of this week's leadership. As any politician will tell you, it's tough at the top — but it's hell anywhere else.

HOW IS YOUR TEAM DOING?
Call the ITF Checkline on
0891 884 643
50p a minute, using a Touch-tone telephone. Public telephones cost twice as much

IAN HODGSON / REUTER

Francesco Baiano, left: with the new December ITF revaluations coming up next Monday, it is players like Derby's Italian striker, a frequent scorer over recent weeks, who may have their value enhanced. He is currently worth £2 million

FAXBACK: YOUR UP-TO-DATE TEAM SCORES

The brand new *Times* Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF League and, if appropriate, your mini-league (womens, students, youth). Scores and transfer confirmations are updated by 12 noon on the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your ten-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF Team Faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or press the on-hook or telephone button instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £1 per minute and are available in the UK only.

The number to call for your Faxback is:

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If you have any problems operating this service, call the Faxback Helpline on 0171-412 3795. This service is provided by Telecom Express, Westminster Tower, London SE1 7SP.

LEAGUE UPDATES

ITF LEAGUE
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PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE
Professionals choose their fantasy team

STUDENTS' LEAGUE
Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag

YOUTH LEAGUE
Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag

WOMEN'S LEAGUE
Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

1	S Brooks	Sandras Specials	409
1	B Fletcher	Ab Fab	409
3	S Whitfield	Snail Busters	404
4	P Sloan	Patslo Utd	399
5	S Reader	Sophie Reader Fa	390
6	J Gardner	15 Chumbawumbas	389
7	P Johnston	XII Superstars	387
8	L Emery	Buggsy's Boys	386
9	S Catchpole	Blue Boys	385
9	A Hembrow	The Breconians 1	385
11	C Purdy	Kates Cosmos	384
12	H Irvine	Hel's Belles	383
13	A Beam	Harry's Heroes	381
14	P Bee	Bumble Five	380
15	J Bitmead	Janet's Allstars	375
16	B Sharp	Penfield FC	374
17	V Douglass	The Belle Delli	373
18	M Hussain	Good Luck Malika	372
18	K Tindall	Flash XI	372
20	P Beattie	Sounds Good	370

STUDENTS' LEAGUE

1	N Wheatley	H D G Is A Sad Waster	465
2	G Wilson	Dog Soldiers	446
3	Mr N Wheatley	Witheridge is ill	438
4	T Gardner	6 Chumbawumbas	408
5	C Marianczak	Jansen's Xi	407
6	N Wheatley	A Tight Horse Is Fun	403
7	J Windeatt	Father Shabooboo	401
8	I McGill	The White Helmets	396
9	J Gardner	15 Chumbawumbas	389
10	P Henson	Hensonhammers	388
11	HK Gujadhur	Hem's Eleventh	387
11	Z Tezer	Ziggy Greaves XI	387
13	C Van Hough	The Boy Sprouts	386
14	J Frost	Variety Sports Inter	380
15	Steven Shipley	Set Against	375
16	M Barker	Matts Marvels	373
17	A Clifford	Smelly Tubbies	372
17	J Pettigrew	Tor Cosmos	372
17	J Liversidge	Real Ramsbottom	372
20	R Lee	Maxwellsmarvels	369

YOUTH LEAGUE

1	D Lewis	Lewis Boys II	456
2	C Marianczak	Jansen's XI	407
3	M Roberts	Krystonia Three	402
4	M Somapala	Horley Flames	390
5	G Calderbank	Calders XI	389
5	J Gardner	15 Chumbawumbas	389
7	R Wicke	Robbed	388
8	M McPhillips	Ballygallyrovers	387
9	R Alden	Cornholios Boyz	383
10	S Mawer	Forest Reserves2	381
11	R Caulfield	Cauf's Dwarbsz	380
12	T Smith	Up The League FC	379
13	D Greenman	Thekopforthecup	377
14	E Swirles	Esthers Entertainers	376
15	P Carter	Spartak Carter	375
15	C Oyston	The Offspring Fc	375
17	N Brotherton	Total Commitment	373
17	D Cheetham	Clifton Rovers	373
19	S Bird	Golden Wonders	372
19	K Tindall	Flash XI	372

ITF LEAGUE

1	G Rainbow	Rainbows Topteam	502
2	Mr D Edbrooke Stainer	Ca	496
2	Mr M Jones	Jb6	496
4	S Legg	Goose 4	489
5	Mike Madden	Poachers never change their sp	481
6	Mr M Jones	Jb4	480
7	C Sloan	Brantingham FC	479
8	Malcolm Jackson	No name	477
9	B Fazakerley	Lfc 4	473
10	D Fenton	Out Of The Blue	472
11	George Mijuskovich	Big Mac Europe	470
11	Mr M Jones	Jb5	470
11	Mr A Colcombe	Mr Wads XI	470
14	N Wheatley	H D G Is A Sad Waster	465
15	Chris Forde	Game of Two Pints	464
16	AJ Hastings	Golden Wonders	463
16	D Ross	Liberus	463
18	D Shuter	Don 2	462
18	R Calder	Bobs Boys6	462
20	Mary Ann Kennedy	Inverness Undecided	460
20	Steven Adams	Britannia Stokies	460
22	G Dolan	Genesis	459
23	G Kooner	United	458
24	Mukund	Goulou Goulou	457
25	Dbusby	This Years Lot	456
26	Mary Ann Kennedy	Too Farr	455
27	S Legg	Goose 5	454
28	C Burr	Burr's Spurs 4	453
29	P Rees	Yukon Merchants	452
29	Mr M Jones	Jb2	452
31	K Farhall	Chelsea 6	451
32	D Shuter	DON 5	448
32	D Shuter	Rassell 2	448
34	James Tan	Red Scousers	447
34	C Milner	Premier Stars	447
36	G Wilson	Dog Soldiers	446
36	P Bown	Bees XI	446
38	Susan Makin	spud2	445
39	J Heather	Enid 4	444
39	J W Goody	Legion	444
39	Mr Dp Knight	Knightio	444
42	Mr A Mellon	Shorts Hits	443
43	Adam Fitzjohn	Af4	441
44	V Cox	Pegasus And Unicorns	440
45	A Nevlazski	Nadar	439
45	P Turner	Turners Earners 5	439
47	Mr N Wheatley	Witheridge is ill	438
47	R Yates	Fairfield Dons C	438
47	A Old Barn House	Toblin	438
50	Barba Papa a la Bacon	Novote Spoilers	437
50	Allison Scanlan	Flying Kiwis	437
50	Philip Ward	Wannabe Heroes XI	437
50	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton 7	437
50	Mr S Legg	Mondo 6	437
55	Andrew	United United	436
56	Jeremy Dwyer	Nudge Nudge Wink Wink	435
56	S Legg	Goose 8	435
56	Mrs P Tansley	Az	435
59	D Shuter	Don 1	434
59	R Jones	Cell Block H	434
59	T Gammage	Drowned Goldfish	434
59	D Walton	Numpty Nuts	434
59	Mr S Gorse	Stigwig Again	434
64	F Boxall	Zara 3	433
64	P Lee	Moss Marauders	433
64	G Millington	Survivors	433
64	Graeme Dabnor	St Remy Strikers	433
64	Andrew Bates	Wetherby Racing 7	433
64	Tim Oldfield	Winster Warriors 4	433
64	Tim Oldfield	Winster Warriors 1	433
64	A Birtwell	Fife Flyers	433
72	J Strickland	Clan B	432
72	Grady	Wormo	432
72	J W Goody	Jg4	432
72	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton A	432
72	P Turner	Turners Earners 6	432
72	Mr K Lethby	Kl43	432
72	P Turner	Turners Earnt 5	432
79	RJ Ward	Nonchalont A FC 4	431
80	Morgan Kelly	Woodside Wallops 1	430
80	Mr D Burch	Abz	430
80	Martin Corless	D	430
83	J Sanderson	Best Boy 5	429
83	Mrs Sheila Borland	Teddybears Pinknicks	429
85	guido	santamarta	428
85	Chris Forde	AC Dot UK	428
85	C Scarlet	Fk 506	428
85	Mr K Lethby	Kl35	428
89	Mr Mc Gunn	Hot Shots	427
90	AG Henderson	Hendo Four	426
90	J Bartlett	The Wright Ones	426
90	P Rawlings	Eastbrook Stars	426
90	R Yates	Ace Adam 2	426
90	Richard Callis	Sydney Celtic FC	426
90	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton 6	426
96	W Clark	Blazen Heads	425
96	DM Carter	Pinewood Form	425
96	A Luckhurst	Caroline B	425
96	P Gillies	23 Handicap	425
96	Graeme Dabnor	St Remy Streetfighters	425

PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE

1	Paul Simpson	Derby County/Wolves	326
2	Simon Grayson	Aston Villa	321
3	John Salako	Coventry City	307
4	Dean Blackwell	Wimbledon	302
5	Alf-Inge Haaland	Leeds United	297
6	Steve Potts	West Ham United	295
7	Robert Lee	Newcastle United	286
8	Kevin Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	269
8	Kyle Lightbourne	Coventry City	269
10	Jonathan Hunt	Derby County	264
10	Bjorn Kvarme	Liverpool	264
12	Rob Savage	Leicester City	262
13	Tim Breacker	West Ham United	259
13	Kenny Cunningham	Wimbledon	259
15	David Tuttle	Crystal Palace	258
16	David Batty	Newcastle United	257
17	Richard Shaw	Coventry City	255
18	Frank Leboeuf	Chelsea	250
19	David Wetherall	Leeds United	249
20	Lee Sharpe	Leeds United	235
20	Paul Williams	Coventry City	235
20	Phil Babb	Liverpool	235
23	David Seamen	Arsenal	234
24	Dave Watson	Everton	230
24	Kevin Muscat	Crystal Palace	230
26	John Hendrie	Barnsley	229
26	Kevin Hitchcock	Chelsea	229
28	Jason Euell	Wimbledon	228
29	Dennis Wise	Chelsea	227
29	Dean Holdsworth	Wimbledon	227
31	Teddy Sheringham	Manchester United	221
32	Gareth Southgate	Aston Villa	219
33	Andrew Liddell	Barnsley	218
33	Nicky Butt	Manchester United	218
35	Neil Redfearn	Barnsley	217
36	Robin Van Der Laan	Derby County	215
37	Ugo Ehiogu	Aston Villa	214
38	Gary Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	212
39	Graeme Le Saux	Chelsea	211
40	Pontus Kaamark	Leicester City	210
40	Nigel Martyn	Leeds United	210
42	Lee Dixon	Arsenal	209
42	Robbie Fowler	Liverpool	209
44	Colin Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	208
44	Chris Powell	Derby County	208
46	Andy Townsend	Aston Villa/Middlesbrough	206
47	Kasey Keller	Leicester City	204
48	Patrick Berger	Liverpool	200
49	Ian Pearce	Blackburn Rovers/West Ham	199
49	Andy Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	199
51	John Beresford	Newcastle United	197
51	Andy Roberts	Crystal Palace	197
53	Stewart Castledine	Wimbledon	195
54	Richard Jobson	Leeds United	194
55	Lars Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	191
55	Steve Lomas	West Ham United	191
57	John Scales	Tottenham Hotspur	190
58	Steve Clarke	Chelsea	186
59	Roger Cross	Tottenham Hotspur	183
60	Darren Pitcher	Crystal Palace	182
61	Spencer Prior	Leicester City	175
61	Danny Williamson	Everton	175
63	John Hartson	West Ham United	174
64	Gary Neville	Manchester United	170
65	David Beckham	Manchester United	166
66	Iain Dowie	West Ham United	162
67	Nicky Eaden	Barnsley	160
68	Mark Wright	Liverpool	154
69	Colin Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	145
69	Lee Carsley	Derby County	145
71	Gianfranco Zola	Chelsea	143
72	Alan Wright	Aston Villa	137
73	Alan Shearer	Newcastle United	123
74	Marc Edworthy	Crystal Palace	120
75	Mike Whitlow	Leicester City/Bolton	70

INTERNET LEAGUE

1	Mike Madden	Poachers never chang	481
2	George Mijuskovich	Big Mac Europe	470
3	Chris Forde	Game of Two Pints	464
4	Mary Ann Kennedy	Inverness Undecided	460
5	Mukund	Goulou Goulou	457
6	Mary Ann Kennedy	Too Farr	455
7	James Tan	Red Scousers	447
8	P Bown	Bees XI	446
9	Susan Makin	Spud2	445
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10	Philip Ward	Wannabe Heroes XI	437
13	Andrew	United United	436
14	Jeremy Dwyer	Nudge Nudge Wink Win	435
15	Graeme Dabnor	St Remy Strikers	433
15	Andrew Bates	Wetherby Racing 7	433
15	Tim Oldfield	Winster Warriors 4	433
15	Tim Oldfield	Winster Warriors 1	433
19	Grady	Wormo	432
20	Morgan Kelly	Woodside Wallops 1	430

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

All 1997-8 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS AWARDED

Goalkeeper		**Striker**	
Keeps clean sheet (per half)**	+3 points	Scores goal	+2 points
Scores goal	+20 points	**All players**	
Saves penalty	+1 point	On winning side	+2 point
Full backs/Central defender		Appearance†	+1 point
Keeps clean sheet*	+3 points	Scores hat-trick	+10 bonus points
Scores goal	+4 points	**Manager**	
Midfield player		Wins	+3 points
Keeps clean sheet*	+1 point	Draws	+1 point
Scores goal	+3 points		

POINTS DEDUCTED

Goalkeeper		Booked	-1 point
Concedes goal	-2 points	Concedes penalty	-1 point
Full backs/Central defender		Misses penalty	-1 point
Concedes goal	-1 point	Scores own goal	-1 point
All players		**Manager**	
Sent off	-3 points	Team loses	-1 point

** Must have played a complete half in the match to earn +3 points *Must have played for 75 minutes in the match †Must have played for 45 minutes in the match

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENTER ITF

£1,000, a signed Mitre football and a Mitre Sports bag, and tickets to a premier league match of your choice can be won every month, plus the chance to win £10,000 in a separate FA Cup League so enter the ITF now.

The manager of the month can be won by any team, no matter where it is in the overall ITF league. The prize simply goes to the person whose team scores the highest points in any one month. If you are a student or a woman *(18 or over)* you may also enter the appropriate mini-league, while under-18 year olds enter the Youth league. These all carry separate monthly prizes.

By entering the ITF, your team will automatically be entered into a separate FA Cup league. Your players will earn you points for the FA Cup league *(Littlewoods FA Cup and Tennents Scottish FA Cup)* as well as the main ITF league.

Remember the earlier you register, the more transfers your team will be allocated.

HOW TO ENTER

Entries to ITF via The Times are now by phone only, on

0891 405 011

From the Republic of Ireland only +44 990 100 308

- You must use a Touch-tone *(DTMF)* telephone *(most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone).*
- Choose 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.
- Do not spend more than 35 million.
- Do not choose more than two individuals *(2 players or 1 player and 1 manager)* from any one club.
- Once you have chosen your team, call the entry line, above, and follow the step-by-step instructions.
- You will be given a ten-digit personal indentification number *(PIN)* at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number as you will need your PIN for making transfers and checking your team score.

A new team will score points on future games. 0891 calls cost 50p per minute. Your call will cost about double if made from a pay phone. In the event of there being more than one manager of the month, the winner will be chosen at random. In the event of there being more than one league winner, a tiebreak will operate.

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You can always catch the latest football news with LineOne, the UK entertainment and Internet service. LineOne provides the most comprehensive sports service around, with stories and reports from Sky, leading newspapers and the best sources on the Internet. It's particularly useful if you're a participant in The Times Interactive Team Football. You can chat to other players and even set up the service to bring you news about your own team like a shot.
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هكذا من الأهل

Guide to players, transfers and revaluations

A recent influx of top players into ITF has brought the chance to buy some exciting young strikers for your team

Interactive Team Football entrants looking for some fresh faces to liven up their teams have been pleased to note some significant recent additions to the ITF lists, including some of the *most talented young forwards* to emerge for several seasons.

A valuation of £4.5 million reflects the enormous potential of Michael Owen, the Liverpool prodigy who scored on his league debut within *minutes of coming on* as a substitute against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park last season, and got his first Anfield goal against Spurs two weeks ago.

Across town, Everton's Danny Cadamarteri has been *attracting rave notices*. He marked his full debut with a goal against Barnsley at Goodison Park and he followed that up with a strike to settle the first Merseyside derby of the season, guaranteeing *him an instant* place in the folklore of the blue half of *Liverpool* — yours for only £2.5 million.

Valued between the two is Kevin Davies, who first came to nationwide attention when his hat-trick for Chesterfield at Burnden Park put Bolton out of *last* season's FA Cup. His transfer to the south coast was virtually the last act of Graeme Souness's managership at The Dell, but it was a parting gift that the club has reason to be grateful for. His *goal against* Everton, a *solo* run from the half-way line past most of the defence, caused the country to sit up and take notice, and his good form continued with a goal at Newcastle on Saturday.

Joe Kinnear has also unearthed another new talent from the youth team — Carl Cort (£3m), whose height has been a *valuable* factor in the Wimbledon array of set plays, and has now scored six goals - or is it seven? With a true striker's hunger, Cort is claiming an own goal, in a game at Derby, as his own.

Problems with ITF?
Call the help line
01582 702720

NICK SZCZEPANIK

MARK THOMPSON / ALLSPORT

Cadamarteri: the young Evertonian with a growing reputation is a recent addition to ITF

THIS WEEK'S MOVES

IN

51004	Mechele Padovano	Crystal Palace	£2.5m
60102	Alex Miller	Aberdeen	£1.5m
62802	Christian Gross	Tottenham Hotspur	£2.0m

OUT

60101	Roy Aitken	Abcrdeen	£1.5m
60801	Gerry Francis	Tottenham Hotspur	£2.5m

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

☐ YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

☐ EACH TEAM that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date has its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. All teams registered before noon that day will be allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered after noon on December 13 will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

☐ THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

☐ YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

☐ TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

☐ YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

☐ CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

DECEMBER REVALUATIONS: SEE NEXT MONDAY'S TIMES

THE SECOND player revaluation *of the 1997-98 Interactive* Team football season takes place *next Monday, December 1*. The revaluation takes effect from midnight on Sunday November 30, and a list of new player values will be printed in the Sport section of MONDAY'S *Times* in addition to the on-screen information available to entrants *via Sky and the Internet*.

A change in the total value of your squad which takes it over £35 million does not mean you must make transfers to reduce the total; in effect you have made a profit which can then be used as you see fit. Equally, a fall in the total value of your team does not allow you to spend the *difference between the new* value and the £35 million starting budget.

Valuation changes can be dramatic. In October, Marco Negri's price shot up from £3.5 million to £6.5 million, while that of his compatriot, Paolo Di Canio, dropped from £6.5 to £3 million.

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00	2	–7
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	–3	44
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00	0	28
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	0	–34
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn R	3.50	8	42
10601	K Branagan	Bolton W	1.50	7	25
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0	0
10702	J Gould	Celtic	3.50	10	7
10801	E De Goey	Chelsea	3.00	2	34
10901	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	–2	25
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0
11002	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	0	29
11101	M Poom	Derby County	1.50	3	27
11201	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.00	–7	3
11301	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00	2	–5
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00	–3	3
11501	G Rousset	Hearts	1.50	–4	38
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50	0	0
11602	O Gottskalksson	Hibernian	1.50	2	2
11701	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	–9	–15
11801	N Martyn	Leeds United	3.50	3	40
11901	K Keller	Leicester City	2.50	7	45
12001	D James	Liverpool	3.50	2	34
12101	P Schmeichel	Manchester Utd	5.00	1	63
12201	S Howie	*Motherwell*	1.00	0	0
12301	S Given	Newcastle Utd	4.00	0	17
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	4	23
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.00	8	–10
12702	P Jones	Southampton	1.00	0	0
12601	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50	8	21
12801	I Walker	Tottenham H	3.00	0	24
12901	L Miklosko	West Ham Utd	2.00	–2	5
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	–6	34

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	–1	10
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	–1	24
20203	E Petit	Arsenal	3.00	0	13
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	0	11
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	–1	12
20303	S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.50	0	12
20304	F Nelson	Aston Villa	2.00	1	9
20401	N Eaden	Barnsley	0.50	5	–1
20402	N Thompson	Barnsley	0.50	0	–5
20403	D Barnard	Barnsley	1.00	5	0
20502	J Kenna	Blackburn R	2.50	5	30
20503	P Valery	Blackburn R	2.50	0	8
20601	N Cox	Bolton W	2.00	0	3
21901	M Whitlow	Bolton W	1.50	4	1
20602	R Elliott	Bolton W	2.00	0	4
20603	J Phillips	Bolton W	1.00	0	0
20701	T Boyd	Celtic	3.50	4	27
20702	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.50	1	2
20703	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	5	23
20501	G Le Saux	Chelsea	4.00	0	16
20801	D Petrescu	Chelsea	4.00	0	25
20802	*C Babayaro*	*Chelsea*	*2.00*	*0*	9
20803	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	–1	–1
20901	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	–3	8
20903	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	–3	4
20904	R Nilsson	Coventry City	1.00	–3	–3
21001	D Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	14
21002	M Edworthy	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	7
21004	*J Smith*	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	0
21101	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	1	12
21102	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0	0
21103	G Rowett	Derby County	1.50	1	1
21401	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50	–2	–3
21402	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	–1	1
21403	T Phelan	Everton	1.50	0	–2
21501	G Locke	Hearts	1.50	–1	6
21701	D Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	–1
21801	G Kelly	Leeds Utd	2.50	1	16
21802	D Robertson	Leeds Utd	2.50	1	15
21902	S Guppy	Leicester City	1.50	4	29
22001	S Bjornebye	Liverpool	4.00	0	17
22002	J McAteer	Liverpool	3.00	0	0
22003	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	0	11
22101	D Irwin	Manchester Utd	4.00	0	20
22102	G Neville	Manchester Utd	3.50	2	28
22103	P Neville	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	18
22301	S Watson	Newcastle Utd	3.00	1	13
22302	W Barton	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	14
22303	J Beresford	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	16
22304	S Pearce	Newcastle Utd	3.00	*0*	*6*
22401	A Cleland	Rangers	3.00	–1	12
22402	S Stensaas	Rangers	3.00	–1	15
22501	P Blondeau	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	–15
22502	I Nolan	Sheffield Wed	2.00	4	–8
22701	J Dodd	Southampton	1.00	–1	14
22702	F Benali	Southampton	0.75	–1	2
22703	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75	0	2
22801	C Wilson	Tottenham H	2.00	0	0
22802	J Edinburgh	Tottenham H	2.00	0	–3
22803	S Carr	Tottenham H	2.00	0	–2
22901	J Dicks	West Ham Utd	3.00	0	0
22902	A Impey	West Ham Utd	1.50	–2	–4
22903	T Breacker	West Ham Utd	2.00	–2	–2
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	2.00	–4	8
23002	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.00	–4	4
23003	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.00	0	1

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
30101	B O'Neil	Aberdeen	2.00	–1	–20
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.50	–2	13
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.50	–1	–1
30203	G Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00	–1	14
30204	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	11
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	0	6
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.50	5	19
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	5	–16
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50	5	–15
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	1	–1
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn R	3.00	0	22
30504	S Henchoz	Blackburn R	2.50	5	18
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn R	2.00	5	5
30601	G Taggart	Bolton W	1.50	0	5
30602	G Bergsson	Bolton W	1.00	4	8
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton W	1.00	0	0
30604	M Fish	Bolton W	1.50	4	5
30701	E Annoni	Celtic	1.50	5	5
30702	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00	0	2
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	4	25
30704	M Rieper	Celtic	3.00	0	19
30801	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.00	0	24
30802	M Duberry	Chelsea	3.00	0	8
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	0	11
30804	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50	0	–1
30901	L Daish	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
30902	R Shaw	*Coventry City*	1.50	–2	13
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	–2	0
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	8
31002	A Linighan	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	7
31003	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	0
31004	H Hreidarsson	Crystal Palace	1.00	0	0
31101	I Stimac	Derby County	2.50	0	7
31102	*J Laursen*	*Derby County*	1.50	2	12
31201	S Pressley	Dundee Utd	2.00	–3	8
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	0	–7
31401	S Bilic	Everton	2.50	–1	–11
31402	D Watson	Everton	2.00	0	2
31501	D Weir	Hearts	2.00	–2	21
31601	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00	0	–7
31801	D Wetherall	Leeds Utd	2.00	1	24
31802	G Halle	Leeds Utd	2.00	1	12
31803	R Molenaar	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	8
31804	L Radebe	Leeds Utd	1.50	1	10
31901	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.00	4	38
31902	P Kaamark	Leicester City	2.00	4	23
31903	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.50	4	29
31904	S Prior	Leicester City	2.00	4	4
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0	5
32002	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	–1	9
32003	B Kvarme	Liverpool	3.00	0	16
30501	H Berg	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	21
32101	D May	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	0
32102	G Pallister	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	27
32301	P Albert	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	8
32302	D Peacock	Newcastle Utd	3.00	1	9
32303	S Howey	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	1
32304	A Pistone	Newcastle Utd	3.00	1	8
32401	S Porrini	Rangers	3.50	0	25
32402	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0	20
32403	L Amoruso	Rangers	3.50	0	0
32404	R Gough	Rangers	4.00	–1	–1
32501	D Walker	*Sheffield Wed*	2.00	5	–2
32502	J Newsome	Sheffield Wed	2.00	5	0
32503	P Atherton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	4	–3
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0	–5
32702	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00	–2	3
32704	K Monkou	Southampton	1.00	–1	8
32601	S McCluskey	St Johnstone	0.50	1	5
32801	*S Campbell*	*Tottenham H*	3.00	*0*	0
32802	J Scales	Tottenham H	2.50	0	3
32803	R Vega	Tottenham H	2.00	0	–4
32804	C Calderwood	Tottenham H	2.00	0	4
32901	R Ferdinand	West Ham Utd	2.50	0	–4
32902	R Hall	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	0
31403	D Unsworth	West Ham Utd	2.00	–2	–4
32903	S Potts	West Ham Utd	1.50	–3	1
32904	I Pearce	West Ham Utd	2.00	–2	–10
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	–5	9
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	–4	9

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
40101	E Jess	Aberdeen	2.00	1	14
40102	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00	0	7
40201	M Overmars	Arsenal	5.50	1	34
40202	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.50	0	26
40203	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.00	1	2
40204	R Parlour	Arsenal	2.50	0	29
40205	D Platt	Arsenal	1.50	0	14
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	3.00	2	22
40302	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50	0	24
40401	N Redfearn	Barnsley	3.00	3	33
40402	E Tinkler	Barnsley	2.00	3	17
40403	D Sheridan	Barnsley	1.00	0	11
40404	M Bullock	Barnsley	0.50	3	15
40501	J Wilcox	Blackburn R	3.00	1	14
40502	B McKinlay	Blackburn R	3.00	3	16
40503	T Sherwood	Blackburn R	3.00	3	24
40504	G Flitcroft	Blackburn R	3.00	3	21
40601	A Thompson	Bolton W	2.50	2	23
40602	S Sellars	Bolton W	2.00	0	11
40603	P Frandsen	Bolton W	2.00	1	16
40604	M Johansen	Bolton W	2.00	2	4
40605	J Pollock	Bolton W	2.00	2	17
40701	A Thom	Celtic	4.50	9	24
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00	0	7
42503	R Blinker	Celtic	3.00	2	13
40704	C Burley	Celtic	3.00	1	27
40705	P Lambert	Celtic	3.00	3	4
40801	D Wise	Chelsea	4.00	1	19
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00	0	21
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	1.50	0	9
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	3.00	0	28
40901	G McAllister	Coventry City	2.50	0	19
40902	*T Soltvedt*	*Coventry City*	*1.50*	*0*	17
40903	J Salako	Coventry City	1.50	0	15
40904	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	1	1
41002	S Rodger	Crystal Palace	1.00	0	16
41003	D Pitcher	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0
41004	P Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	18
41005	A Lombardo	Crystal Palace	3.00	0	21
41101	*A Asanovic*	*Derby County*	2.50	*0*	6
41102	S Eranio	Derby County	2.50	4	19
41103	D Powell	Derby County	1.50	0	6
41104	C Dailly	Derby County	1.50	1	14
41105	R Van Der Laan	Derby County	1.00	0	8
41106	J Hunt	Derby County	1.00	1	13
41201	R Winters	Dundee Utd	3.50	1	34
41301	A Smith	*Dunfermline*	2.00	1	38
41401	G Speed	Everton	3.50	4	34
41402	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0	0
41403	G Farrelly	Everton	1.50	0	4
41404	D Williamson	Everton	2.00	1	14
41405	J Oster	Everton	2.50	0	0
41501	N McCann	Hearts	2.50	5	41
41601	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.00	1	4
41602	B Lavety	Hibernian	2.00	0	19
41701	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	2.00	0	0
41001	D Hopkin	Leeds Utd	3.50	0	23
41801	L Bowyer	Leeds Utd	3.00	2	12
41802	A Haaland	Leeds Utd	2.00	5	23
41803	L Sharpe	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	0
41804	B Ribeiro	Leeds Utd	2.50	2	2
41901	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00	0	10
41902	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00	2	24
41903	M Izzet	Leicester City	2.00	2	27
41904	S Taylor	Leicester City	1.50	0	0
42001	S McManaman	Liverpool	7.00	1	36
42002	O Leonhardsen	Liverpool	3.00	1	13
42003	M Thomas	*Liverpool*	3.00	0	14
42004	J Redknapp	*Liverpool*	3.00	1	11
42006	P Ince	Liverpool	5.00	0	21
42101	D Beckham	Manchester Utd	8.00	7	36
42102	R Giggs	Manchester Utd	7.00	2	32
42103	R Keane	Manchester Utd	5.00	0	23
42104	N Butt	Manchester Utd	4.00	5	36
42105	A Cole	Manchester Utd	5.00	5	49
42201	B Davies	*Motherwell*	2.00	0	6
42301	R Lee	Newcastle Utd	5.00	2	22
42302	K Gillespie	Newcastle Utd	3.50	2	19
42303	D Batty	Newcastle Utd	2.50	2	14
42005	J Barnes	Newcastle Utd	2.50	8	31
42401	B Laudrup	Rangers	8.00	0	24
42402	P Gascoigne	Rangers	6.00	–2	22
42403	J Thern	Rangers	4.00	1	9
42404	J Albertz	Rangers	4.00	1	21
42501	B Carbone	Sheffield Wed	3.00	1	31
42701	J Magilton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	3	21
42502	M Pembridge	Sheffield Wed	2.00	3	15
42504	G Hyde	Sheffield Wed	1.00	1	6
42505	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wed	1.50	6	6
42702	R Slater	Southampton	0.75	0	6
42704	K Richardson	Southampton	0.50	1	14
42705	C Palmer	Southampton	1.50	1	14
42706	M Oakley	Southampton	1.50	1	1
42601	A Sekerlioglu	St Johnstone	0.75	0	11
42801	A Sinton	Tottenham H	3.00	0	9
42802	D Anderton	Tottenham H	3.00	0	2
42803	R Fox	Tottenham H	2.00	0	15
42804	*D Howells*	*Tottenham H*	2.00	0	16
42805	D Ginola	Tottenham H	3.00	0	18
42901	E Berkovic	West Ham Utd	2.50	1	33
42902	S Lomas	West Ham Utd	2.50	1	16
42903	J Moncur	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	10
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.50	0	21
43002	N Ardley	Wimbledon	2.00	4	19
43003	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	1	15
42904	M Hughes	Wimbledon	2.00	4	20
43004	C Hughes	Wimbledon	1.50	0	15

STRIKERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
50101	B Dodds	Aberdeen	4.00	3	22
50201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50	1	45
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	8.50	0	44
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	7.50	2	23
50302	S Collymore	Aston Villa	7.00	2	14
50303	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	3.00	4	11
50401	G Hristov	Barnsley	1.50	0	9
50402	J Hendrie	Barnsley	1.50	1	9
51102	A Ward	Barnsley	2.00	4	17
50403	C Marcelle	Barnsley	1.00	0	4
50501	K Gallacher	Blackburn R	5.50	1	34
50502	M Dahlin	Blackburn R	4.00	0	12
50503	C Sutton	Blackburn R	6.00	2	51
50602	N Blake	Bolton W	3.50	1	17
50603	P Beardsley	Bolton W	2.00	0	14
53003	D Holdsworth	Bolton W	3.00	0	9
51601	D Jackson	Celtic	4.00	1	6
50703	T Johnson	Celtic	2.50	0	0
50704	S Donnelly	Celtic	4.50	2	16
50705	H Larsson	Celtic	4.50	7	25
50801	G Zola	Chelsea	7.00	1	21
50802	M Hughes	Chelsea	5.00	1	19
50901	D Dublin	Coventry City	5.00	1	35
50902	D Huckerby	Coventry City	2.50	3	19
50903	N Whelan	Coventry City	2.00	0	0
51001	N Shipperley	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	13
51003	B Dyer	Crystal Palace	2.00	0	15
51101	D Sturridge	Derby County	4.00	2	19
51103	F Baiano	Derby County	2.00	4	37
51104	D Burton	Derby County	1.50	0	4
51105	P Wanchope	Derby County	3.50	3	3
51201	A McLaren	Dundee Utd	3.00	0	18
51202	K Olofsson	Dundee Utd	2.50	1	34
51301	G Britton	Dunfermline	2.00	0	10
51401	D Ferguson	Everton	5.00	1	15
51402	N Barmby	Everton	3.00	0	7
51403	G Stuart	Everton	2.50	1	17
51404	D Cadamarteri	Everton	2.50	1	1
51501	J Robertson	Hearts	3.50	1	22
51502	*J Hamilton*	*Hearts*	3.00	1	2
02	S Crawford	Hibernian	3.00	1	4
51701	P Wright	Kilmarnock	5.00	0	14
51702	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	2.50	1	13
51801	J Hasselbaink	Leeds Utd	3.00	6	19
51803	R Wallace	Leeds Utd	2.50	2	35
51804	H Kewell	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	0
51901	S Claridge	*Leicester City*	2.50	*1*	11
51902	E Heskey	*Leicester City*	4.50	0	20
51903	I Marshall	Leicester City	2.50	1	25
51904	G Fenton	Leicester City	2.00	0	8
52001	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.50	0	18
52002	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00	1	26
52003	K Riedle	Liverpool	4.50	1	19
52004	M Owen	Liverpool	4.50	1	1
52101	O Solskjaer	Manchester Utd	7.50	0	12
52102	T Sheringham	Manchester Utd	7.00	2	30
52103	P Scholes	Manchester Utd	6.00	3	24
52201	O Coyle	Motherwell	3.00	1	17
52202	T Coyne	Motherwell	3.00	3	24
52301	A Shearer	Newcastle Utd	10.00	0	0
52303	F Asprilla	Newcastle Utd	6.00	0	10
52304	J Tomasson	Newcastle Utd	2.00	2	2
52401	M Negri	Rangers	6.50	4	93
52402	S Rozental	Rangers	3.50	0	0
52403	G Durie	Rangers	3.00	1	7
52501	A Booth	Sheffield Wed	3.00	4	24
50702	P Di Canio	Sheffield Wed	3.00	2	24
52503	R Humphreys	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	4
52701	M Le Tissier	Southampton	7.00	1	11
52502	D Hirst	Southampton	2.50	0	19
52702	E Ostenstad	Southampton	4.00	0	8
52704	K Davies	Southampton	3.50	3	3
52601	G O'Boyle	St Johnstone	1.50	2	17
52602	R Grant	St Johnstone	1.00	0	14
52801	S Iversen	Tottenham H	3.50	0	8
52302	L Ferdinand	Tottenham H	7.50	0	16
52802	C Armstrong	Tottenham H	3.50	0	13
52803	J Domingues	Tottenham H	3.00	0	0
52901	J Hartson	West Ham Utd	3.50	1	34
52902	P Kitson	West Ham Utd	3.00	0	9
52903	I Dowie	West Ham Utd	1.50	0	9
53001	M Gayle	Wimbledon	4.00	1	13
53002	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	4.00	0	22
53004	C Cort	Wimbledon	3.00	1	1

MANAGERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
60101	R Aitken	Aberdeen	1.50	1	3
60201	A Wenger	Arsenal	5.00	–1	25
60301	B Little	Aston Villa	2.50	3	11
60401	D Wilson	Barnsley	0.50	3	3
60501	R Hodgson	Blackburn R	3.00	3	29
60601	C Todd	Bolton W	1.50	1	8
60701	W Jansen	Celtic	4.00	4	25
60801	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50	–1	20
60901	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.00	–1	13
61001	S Coppell	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	11
61101	J Smith	Derby County	1.00	3	18
61201	T McLean	Dundee United	2.00	–1	13
61301	*B Paton*	*Dunfermline*	*1.00*	*1*	*15*
61401	H Kendall	Everton	2.00	–1	4
61501	J Jefferies	Hearts	2.50	3	31
61601	J Duffy	Hibernian	2.00	–1	1
61701	B Williamson	Kilmarnock	1.00	–1	5
61801	G Graham	Leeds United	2.00	3	21
61901	M O'Neill	Leicester City	2.50	1	19
62001	R Evans	Liverpool	4.00	–1	18
62101	A Ferguson	Manchester Utd	5.00	3	29
62201	A McLeish	Motherwell	1.00	1	1
62301	K Dalglish	Newcastle Utd	4.50	3	18
62401	W Smith	Rangers	5.00	2	25
62502	R Atkinson	Sheffield Wed	1.50	3	3
62701	D Jones	Southampton	0.50	–1	7
62601	P Sturrock	St Johnstone	0.50	3	11
62801	G Francis	Tottenham H	2.50	0	6
62901	H Redknapp	West Ham United	2.00	–1	8
63001	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	2.00	–1	13

هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES TODAY

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25 1997

NEWS

Go-ahead for Whitehall sale

■ All government departments will be allowed to sell their assets and go into business as commercial enterprises under proposals unveiled by the Treasury. Alistair Darling, the Treasury Chief Secretary, published a 550-page *National Asset Register* listing the land, buildings, equipment and art owned by the Government. Treasury sources believed the total valuation would be at least £300 billion.................. Pages 1, 6

Yamaichi chief sobs as firm collapses

■ Sobbing with shame and humiliation the president of Yamaichi Securities begged for work for his 7,500 employees, as his firm collapsed with liabilities of $24 billion (£14.2 billion). "It breaks my heart that the situation has turned out like this." Shohei Nozawa said as the securities firm marked its 100th birthday by going into oblivion.................................. Page 1, 14

Spencer 'affairs'

Earl Spencer, the brother of Diana, Princess of Wales, had affairs with up to 12 women during his marriage, a South African court was told................. Page 1

Hunting ban

As campaigners mobilised for Friday's vote in the House of Commons the Government announced that hunts have been banned from digging out foxes on Ministry of Defence land .Page 2

BBC climbdown

The BBC made an embarrassing High Court climbdown over a long-running dispute over who should profit from the American rights to the detective series *Dalziel & Pascoe*..............Page 3

IRA rift

The mother of the hunger striker Bobby Sands has intervened to help prevent the rift in the IRA and Sinn Fein from deepening. republican sources said... Page 4

Wrong choice

Truants were cleaning car windscreens at a traffic lights when they decided that a chauffeur-driven limousine looked like a good prospect. It was Baroness Blackstone, the Minister for Education and Employment...Page 5

Hutchence mystery

The rock star Michael Hutchence *died from hanging, but it was still* not confirmed last night that he committed suicide............Page 7

Smear test hope

A computer test for cervical cancer could save the lives of hundreds of women every year and cut the number of incorrect smear test results.........................Page 8

MI6 book 'offer'

A sacked MI6 officer who has pleaded guilty to a charge under the Official Secrets Act was of*fered money by his former em*ployers in return for his book. a court was told .... Page 9

Mandela evidence

Winnie Mandela sat impassive through eight hours of harrowing testimony as former friends and long-standing enemies accused her of torture, abduction and several murders.................. Page 11

Aids cure hoax

Basil Wainwright, who once swindled Noel Edmonds out of £70,000 in a phoney powerboat scheme, is peddling unapproved treatment to dying Aids and cancer sufferers .... Page 12

French tensions

Insults flew between the rival camps of Lionel Jospin and President Chirac, amid predictions that their power-sharing is heading for an early break-upPage 13

Listening President

His cholesterol is down and his injured knee has fully recovered but at 51 President Clinton now wears a symbol of advancing age: a pair of hearing aids..... Page 15

He's called the hidden paw

■ Downing Street went to extraordinary lengths to disprove reports that Humphrey the cat had not been killed off by Cherie *Blair but was alive and well in a new home in the suburbs.* Under strict security conditions normally reserved for the Budget one handpicked camera crew and photographer were led, in a cloak-and-dagger cross country chase.............. Page 1

MARTIN BEDDALL

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, and the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, at the opening of the General Synod

BUSINESS

Yamaichi: *Japan's fourth largest* stockbrokers has been placed in liquidation. More than 300 in London will lose their jobs .....Page 27

Casinos: *The secretive Barclays* twins, David and Frederick, were said to have no financial interest in the company bidding to win a casino licence for the London Ritz, which the Barclays own ....Page 27

Inflation: Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, suggested the Government would lower its inflation target because 2.5 per cent may be too high for entry to a single currency..Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 87.2 to 4898.6. Sterling fell from 104.5 to 104.2 after a rise from $1.6895 to $1.6924 but a fall from DM2.9531 to *DM2.9368* .... Page 30

SPORT

Motor rallying: Colin McRae and Richard Burns shared the lead with one day of the Network Q RAC Rally remaining. McRae made a remarkable recovery after driving into a ditch ....Page 52

Football: Aston Villa's visit to Steaua Bucharest in the Uefa Cup offers them welcome respite from the domestic stress that has beset them this season................ Page 48

Rugby union: Patrick Sanderson, *20, a Sale flanker, is in the English* Rugby Partnership XV against New Zealand alongside seven full internationals.................... Page 50

Cricket: Chris Adams, the Derbyshire batsman, is set to sign a three-year contract with Sussex. He will also become their captain in succes*sion to Peter Moores*.........Page 52

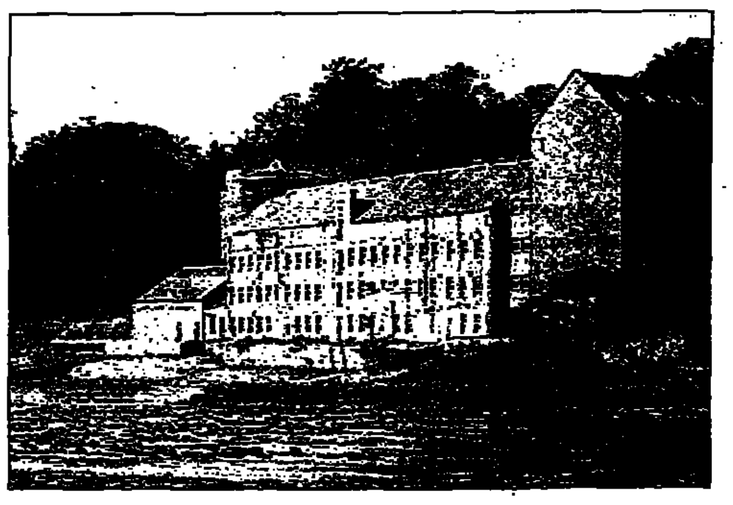
ARTS

Sugar daddy: The French Impressionist art collection amassed by New Yorkers Harry and Louisine Havemeyer in the 19th century has gone home in triumph.......Page 35

Immorality play: The director James Macdonald shocked theatregoers and critics with *Blasted* three years ago. Stand by for his next project with the RSC......... Page 36

Any colour: Colour-blind casting has gained an extra dimension *with Patrick Stewart's Washington* debut as a white Othello in a black republic .... Page 36

Star turn: Veteran performer Barbara Cook celebrated her 70th birthday with an Albert Hall concert that successfully combined the best of her singing and acting *talents* ....Page 37



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ HOMES
How a handsome but derelict cotton mill is being adapted for *the next millennium*

■ INTERFACE
The 25 best computer games for Christmas, *plus* the thriller writer Tom Clancy speaks out

FEATURES

Autism: "I don't try to smile any more." A victim reveals how it affects his marriage..............Page 16

Dry run: John Inman is word-perfect on panto — but Bill Frost finds that the sitcom star is less forthcoming off-stage ....Page 17

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Boosting by degrees: Businesses are being encouraged to expand by employing graduates .... Page 23

LAW

To the Bar: Frances Gibb explains *a new scheme to give people access* to barristers without paying a solicitor .... Page 39

Long view: Lawyers who know the *potentially oil-rich areas of the for*mer Soviet Union advise that the only way to operate in the region is to take a long-term view on *profitability* ....Page 41

THE PAPERS

Is it possible that in less than two years of Conservative rule Australia has changed so much? In this country, which one believed to have turned deliberately towards Asia and which was said to have decided to reconcile itself with its shadowy past, Australians themselves today seem confused about the direction or rather lack of direction given by the Conservative coalition led by John Howard since its return to power in March 1996 — *Le Monde*

RADIO & TV

Preview: Roughing in the Himalayas. *Joanna Lumley in the Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon* (BBC1, 10pm). **Review:** Why are beauty tips for womenPages 50, 51

OPINION

Shock and therapy

If the task of shoring up confidence in Asia's debt-ridden financial sectors is bungled — and to be effective, the medicine must start working almost immediately — the impact of an Asian liquidity crisis will cut growth ....Page 19

Reform and resistance

Sir Archie Hamilton could do as much damage to the Conservative cause in this Parliament as Neil Hamilton did.....................Page 19

Cat flap

Is the Humphrey who posed for pictures the real people's pussy or a furry fake? This is a matter fully worthy of Ace Ventura, Pet *Detective*.............................Page 19

COLUMNS

LIBBY PURVES

After a decade of wild-child mothers, wandering fathers and rocketing divorce figures, it is getting on *for time* we called a halt. Someone has to admit that having children is a rite of passage............Page 18

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Should Peter Mandelson be building his millennium dome, while Chris Smith is closing down the English National Opera? ..Page 18

BRONWEN MADDOX

Whether the response to the crisis is adequate will depend on whether the affected countries themselves, particularly Japan, are prepared to get to grips with their neglected problems at home ....Page 18

PETER RIDDELL

Just as with electoral systems, there is no ideal method of financing political parties. It all depends on *the circumstances and what type of* party system you want ...... Page 4

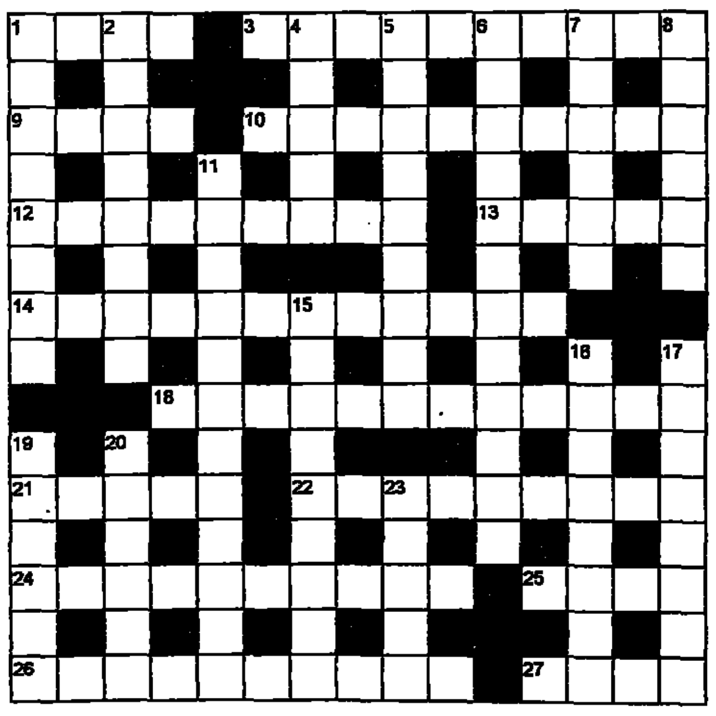
OBITUARIES

Major-General John Douglas-Withers, artillery officer; **Dr Desmond Oliver**, nephrologist; Jorge Mas Canosa, Cuban exile.Page 25

LETTERS

Winchester election; Oxbridge subsidy; Essex alternative to Albuquerque; pay for performers; laser pointers; threat to countryside; class in the Army ....Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,646



ACROSS

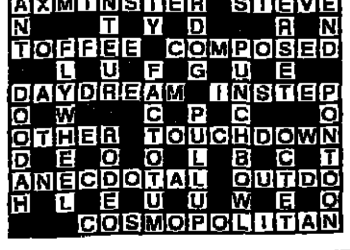
1 Fluff found in 50% of scarves (4).
3 A stain in flying jacket may yield bargain (4-6).
9 Race around very energetically, for starters? (4).
10 Equivalent of White House in African town? (10).
12 Foil pal or become a laughing-stock (5,4).
13 State a lot of paper's left in (5).
14 Where student works out, training with reserve (8,4).
18 Send round note about fiery manager (6,6).
21 Duke eager to become king (5).
22 Poor finale is distasteful (9).
24 A lilac's one unusual plant (10).
25 Rotate flap (4).
26 Deleted, it's rewritten to provide proof of ownership (5-5).
27 Sound of welcome heard (4).

DOWN

1 Vehicle turning up outside French station for girl (8).
2 Not many supporting the passion that's found in bed (8).
4 Raised over everything, it's plain (5).
5 Girl liable to change gets ready (9).
6 Choice of some not obtainable in this case? (3,2,7).
7 In Balkans a stable state can be found (6).
8 Cunning upset university graduate, producing shock (6).
11 Angry with Tory appearance after strikes (5,3,4).
15 Italian phrase in small volume (5,4).
16 African state whose capital is split (8).
17 In style, for instance, church shows refinement (8).
19 God willing, effort initially put into craftsmanship will get notice (6).
20 Bird soundly placed after lifting eggs (6).
23 No end of chicken in China is cooked like this (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 52

Solution to Puzzle No 20,645



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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7 35 am
Sun sets: 4 00 pm
Moon sets 2.16 pm
Moon rises 2.15 am

New moon November 30

London 4.00 pm to 7 37 am
Bristol 4 10 pm to 7 46 am
Edinburgh 3 50 pm to 8.11 am
Manchester 3 59 pm to 7.54 am
Penzance 4 27 pm to 7 52 am

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will be mostly cloudy with outbreaks of rain and brisk winds. However, southeast England and East Anglia are more likely to stay dry. In South Wales and southwest *England it should brighten later with a few* showers. Northern Ireland will be mostly dull and wet; Scotland will be overcast and windy with occasional rain.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E England:** mainly dry with some bright spells but generally cloudy. A moderate to fresh southeast wind. Max 11C (52F)

☐ **Central S England, Midlands, Central N England:** mostly dry but some rain later. A moderate southeast wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, Wales:** cloudy with spells of rain. A moderate south to southeast wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland:** breezy and generally cloudy with spells of rain A fresh to strong southeast wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy with occasional drizzle. A blustery fresh to strong southeast wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **N Ireland:** rain, then brightening before further rain. A fresh to strong southeast wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** heavy rain, then brighter with sunny intervals and showers. Wind moderate, southeasterly. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **Outlook:** unsettled with further outbreaks of rain. Mild.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

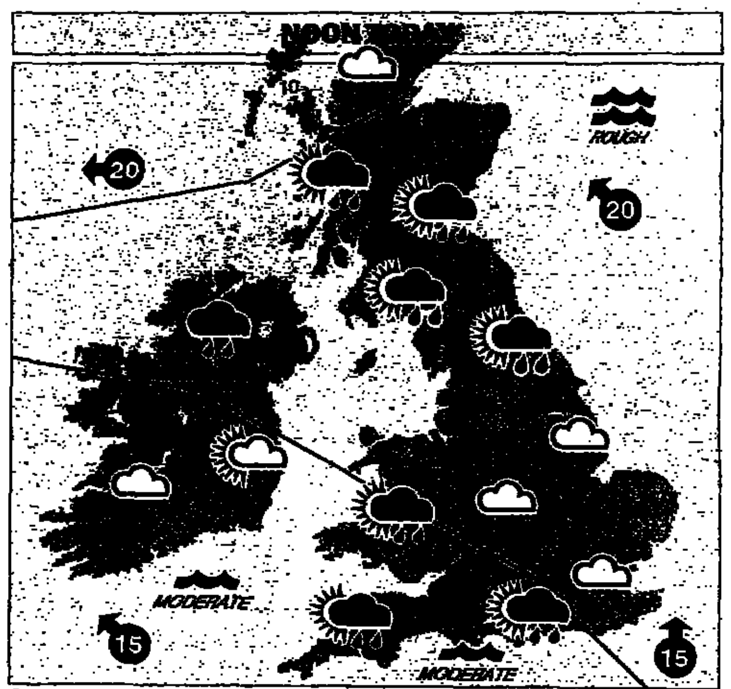
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	-	1 06	9	48	r	Leeds	-	0.20	8	46	r
Anglesey	-	0 43	12	54	r	Lerwick	-	0.01	8	46	c
Aspatria	1 1	0 07	10	50	du	Leuchars	0.1	0 48	9	48	r
Aviemore	0 6	0 01	10	50	c	Littlehmptn	-	0 12	11	52	r
Belfast	2.1	0 31	13	55	r	London	-	0 01	9	48	r
Birmingham	-	0 09	9	48	r	Lowestoft	-	-	8	46	du
Bognor R	0.1	0 10	10	50	r	Manchester	-	0 07	10	50	c
Bournem'th	-	0.27	11	52	sh	Margate	0.4	0 01	7	45	du
Bristol	-	0 11	11	52	r	Minehead	0 1	0.30	11	52	d
Buxton	-	0.33	7	45	du	Newcastle	-	0.02	9	48	du
Cardiff	-	0 15	10	50	r	Newquay	-	0.59	13	55	sh
Clacton	-	-	8	46	c	Norwich	-	0 01	8	46	du
Cleethorpes	-	0 05	9	48	c	Oxford	-	0 17	948		
Colwyn Bay	-	0 22	11	52	c	Penzance	X	0 54	13	55	r
Cromer	-	-	8	46	du	Poole	-	0 36	11	52	r
Eastbourne	-	0 02	9	48	sh	Ross-o-wye	-	0.24	10	50	r
Edinburgh	-	0 12	10	50	r	Saunton Snd	-	0 28	11	52	du
Exmouth	-	0 34	11	52	r	Shrewsbury	-	0 05	9	48	r
Falmouth	-	0 40	12	54	r	Southend	0.2	0 01	9	48	du
Fishguard	-	0.71	11	52	r	Southport	-	0 19	10	50	d
Folkestone	0.1	0 01	7	45	c	Southsea	0 5	0 15	13	55	r
Glasgow	-	0.30	10	50	r	Stornoway	-	0.01	10	50	sh
Guernsey	0.4	0 19	11	52	sh	Swanage	-	0.24	11	52	sh
Hastings	-	0 01	8	46	c	Teignmouth	-	0 52	12	54	r
Herne Bay	-	0 01	8	46	du	Tenby	-	0 82	12	54	sh
Hove	-	-	10	50	c	Tiree	-	0.05	11	52	sh
Isle-of-man	0 6	0 46	12	54	r	Torquay	0.1	0 71	13	55	r
Isle-of-wight	-	0 35	10	50	r	Tynemouth	-	0 01	9	48	c
Jersey	0 6	0.22	10	50	r	West-s-mare	-	0.34	11	52	r
Kinloss	1.3	0 03	10	50	b	Weymouth	-	0 26	11	52	r

ABROAD

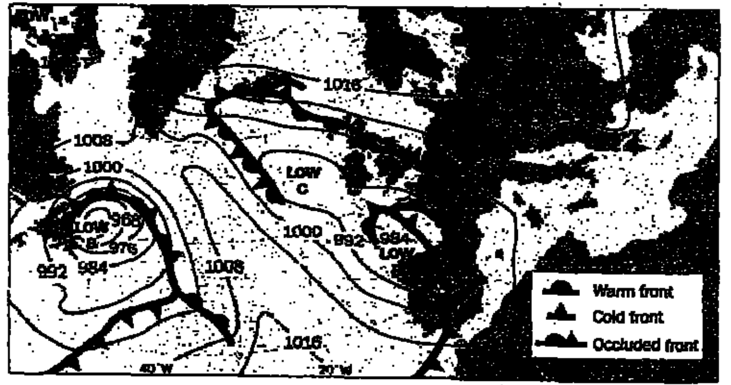
Ajaccio	15	59	r	Corfu	20	68	f	Majorca	16	61	s	Rome	14	57	f
Akrotiri	21	70	s	C'phagn	2	36	c	Malaga	17	63	s	S Fr'isco	16	61	f
Alex'dria	23	73	f	Dublin	10	50	c	Malta	14	57	r	S Paulo	X		
Algiers	17	63	f	Dubrovnik	18	64	f	Melb'rne	24	75	s	Salzburg	2	36	c
Amst'dm	7	45	c	Faro	16	61	s	Mexico C	X			Santiago	29	84	s
Athens	18	64	f	Florence	13	55	f	Miami	27	81	f	Seoul	12	54	s
B Aires	29	84	s	Frankfurt	2	36	c	Milan	9	48	c	Sing'por	31	88	t
Bahrain	24	75	f	Funchal	20	68	r	Montreal	-4	25	X	St'kholm	1	34	sn
Bangkok	34	93	s	Geneva	6	43	c	Moscow	-2	28	sn	Strasb'rg	5	41	c
Barbados	30	86	f	Gibraltar	16	61	s	Munich	2	36	c	Sydney	27	81	s
Barcelona	13	55	s	Helsinki	-1	30	sn	N Delhi	21	70	f	Tangier	18	64	s
Beirut	21	70	f	Hong K	22	72	r	N York	5	41	f	Tel Aviv	22	72	s
Belgrade	6	43	f	Innsbrck	2	36	f	Nairobi	24	75	s	Tenerife	24	75	s
Berlin	0	32	c	Istanbul	16	61	s	Naples	14	57	r	Tokyo	16	61	s
Bermuda	30	86	f	Jeddah	30	86	s	Nice	18	64	s	Toronto	3	37	c
Biarritz	14	57	f	Jo'burg	24	75	s	Oslo	2	36	sn	Tunis	16	61	c
Bordx	12	54	f	L Angels	20	68	s	Paris	4	39	fg	Valencia	17	63	s
Brussels	6	43	c	L Palmas	22	72	s	Peking	7	45	s	Vanc'ver	12	54	r
Budapst	4	39	r	Le Touqt	5	41	c	Perth	21	70	c	Venice	9	48	f
Cairo	23	73	s	Lisbon	15	59	c	Prague	1	34	fg	Vienna	1	34	c
Cape Tn	18	64	c	Locarno	7	45	c	Reykjavik	5	41	f	Warsaw	1	34	f
Ch'church	X			Luxembg	1	34	fg	Rhodes	20	68	f	Wash'ton	11	52	c
Chicago	-3	27	s	Luxor	26	79	s	Rio de J	29	84	f	Well'ngton	21	70	X
Cologne	3	37	c	Madrid	9	48	s	Riyadh	21	70	s	Zurich	3	37	c

Temperatures at midday local time on Sunday. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low D will move northeast and fill, as low C moves north and loses its identity. Low B will move northeast with similar pressure

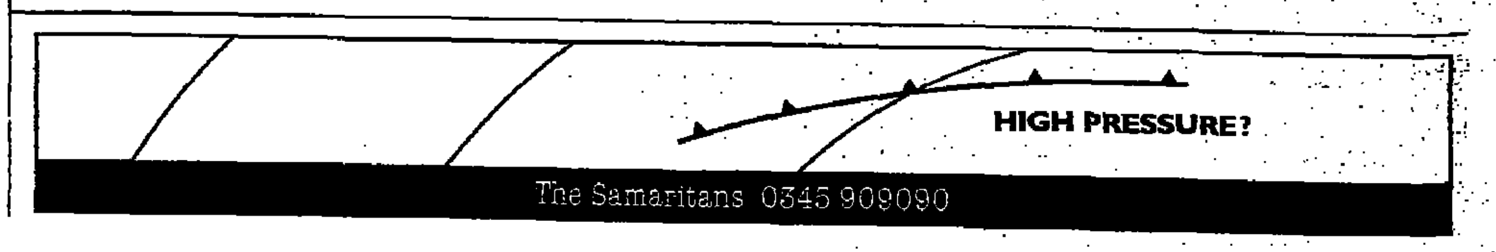


HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	10.08	5.8	22.48	6.2	Leith	11 18	4 6	23 42	4 7
Aberdeen	10.16	3 6	22.27	3 7	Liverpool	07.49	7 7	20 09	7.9
Avonmouth	03.23	10 1	15 48	10 6	Lowestoft	05.33	2.2	19 03	2.3
Belfast	07.40	2.9	19.45	3.2	Margate	08 19	4.0	21.06	4.1
Cardiff	03.09	9.4	15.34	9.9	Milford Haven	02.37	5.4	15 00	5.7
Devonport	01 51	4 5	14 09	4.8	Newquay	01.36	5.5	13.59	5.7
Dover	07.38	6.6	20.14	5.8	Oban	02.36	3.2	14 51	3.4
Dublin (N Wall)	08.28	3.5	20.43	3.6	Penzance	01.08	4.5	13.29	4.7
Falmouth	01.22	4.3	13.40	4.8	Portland	03 30	1 4	15.27	1.5
Greenock	09.28	3 0	21.18	3.1	Portsmouth	08 04	4 1	20.27	3.9
Harwich	08.02	3 2	20 47	3.4	Shoreham	07.37	5.1	20.11	6.0
Holyhead	07 11	4 7	19.23	4.8	Southampton	07.23	4 1	19 42	3.9
Hull (Albert D)	02.24	7 1	15.21	7.1	Swansea	02.32	7.5	15.00	7.8
Ilfracombe	02.20	7.1	14 44	7.6	Tees	-	-	12 30	4.5
King's Lynn	02.37	[illegible]	15.26	5.3	Walton-on-N	08 03	3.3	20.46	3.5

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Redesdale, Northumberland, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Aberdeen, 1.06in; highest sunshine: Belfast, 2.1hr.



HIGH PRESSURE?

The Samaritans 0345 909090

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McRae goes flat out for glory
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25 1997

Yamaichi fallout feared

Analysts say collapse may trigger 'domino effect'

By Richard Miles and Oliver August in New York

THE collapse yesterday of Yamaichi under a Y3.2 trillion (£15 billion) mountain of debt sent chills through the world's financial markets and raised the prospect of a systemic crash in Tokyo.

A senior executive at the broker, Japan's fourth largest, said its closure could trigger a "domino effect" among the country's financial institutions.

John O'Donnell, an analyst at Yamaichi International Europe in London, warned that Japanese banks were being crippled by bad loans, corruption and the weakness of other Asian economies. "This is a potential crisis, the dimensions of which have not yet been fully appreciated. How bad it is depends on how effectively Japanese authorities react to restore confidence."

The Tokyo stock exchange was closed yesterday for a national holiday, but European markets reacted nervously to the collapse of Japan's oldest brokerage. In London, the FTSE 100 index, closed down 87.2 points, while the Dow Jones in New York opened 50 points lower on the news if Yamaichi's demise.

As a tearful Shohei Nozawa, president of Yamaichi, apologised to shareholders and clients for the biggest corporate failure in Japan since the Second World War, market analysts said Yamaichi's problems had been known for some years. "Not many people have been surprised by this. When the Japanese economic bubble burst, when banks and brokers were on p/e ratios of 85, it was clearly on the cards. Most of the Japanese securities firms could follow, and it will become a self-fufilling prophecy," said one.

About 300 staff at the firm's London headquarters in the City were told of the closure by their chief executive, Kenkichi Nakajima, at an early morning meeting, described as sombre. All will lose their jobs over the next six months to a year, with the bulk going in the first few weeks. A spokesman for the bank said it was impossible to judge how long it would take the London operation to wind down its positions. He added, however, that staff would receive some form of redundancy payments, and that "contractual bonuses" would be paid when they fell due.

UK regulators said they were keeping a close eye on the winding down of Yamaichi in the UK, where about 250 people work in securities, and a further 50 in commercial banking. Many left the building to be greeted by headhunters, offering to find them a new job "within days".

In Tokyo, the authorities confirmed that they would use taxpayers' money to ensure that no depositor or client was left out of pocket by the collapse of Yamaichi. Banking sources said yesterday that even after selling its assets, Yamaichi could face a shortfall of up to $10 billion.

The Ministry of Finance also said it would take steps to provide liquidity to the rest of the banking system and so avoid the collapse of any more financial institutions. Besides Yamaichi, Sanyo Securities, the seventh-largest broker, and Hokkaido Takushoku, a commercial bank, have been forced to close because of a lack of liquidity.

Yamaichi's problems have been compounded by a string of scandals, including a secret off-balance sheet debt close to $2 billion (£1.2 billion). Under a scheme known as *tobashi*, Yamaichi absorbed the losses of favoured clients by moving the bad loan from one account to another on the understanding the firm would support it.

Mr Nozawa confirmed for the first time that the bank had Y264.8 billion off-balance sheet losses, including *tobashi* debt of Y158.3 billion. He said, however, that the firm's assets outweighed liabilities.

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Shohei Nozawa weeps as he apologises for Japan's biggest modern corporate failure

Inflation target may be cut, says George

By Alasdair Murray
Economics Correspondent

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday suggested that Gordon Brown may lower his inflation target because the existing 2.5 per cent rate may be too high for entry into a European single currency.

Mr George told the European Parliament's monetary affairs sub-committee that the current rate "may prove higher than is ideal" and suggested that the Chancellor might consider lowering it to 2 per cent "in the light of what happens in the euro zone".

The Governor added that the Bank believes that sterling's current high level is unsustainable, but that there was little that the Bank could do but "grit its teeth" and wait for the exchange rate to decline.

Mr George's comments came as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development issued a report arguing that US base rates would need to rise by half a percentage point next year to head off rising inflation.

Peter Jarrett, head of the OECD's US desk, said that the OECD had originally recommended a 0.75 percentage point rise in base rates, but that "disinflationary shocks" from the financial turmoil in Asia would help to take some steam out of the US economy.

The OECD's latest *US Economic Survey* also claimed that the US needs to do more to tackle its budget deficit and to reform welfare.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4898.6	(-87.2)
Yield	3.32%	
FTSE All share	2310.99	(-33.63)
Nikkei	Closed	
New York:		
Dow Jones	7814.17	(-66.90)*
S&P Composite	955.49	(-7.60)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¹³⁄₁₆%*	(5⁷⁄₈%)
Long Bond	100¹⁷⁄₁₆*	(101⅛)
Yield	6.07%*	(6.04%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7¹⁹⁄₃₂%	(7¹⁹⁄₃₂%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	118⅞	(118¹¹⁄₁₆%)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6905*	(1.6935)
London:		
$	1.6925	(1.6898)
DM	2.9370	(2.9537)
FFr	9.8330	(9.8890)
SFr	2.3768	(2.3997)
Yen	214.47	(212.56)
£ Index	104.2	(104.5)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7382*	(1.7384)
FFr	5.8165*	(5.8220)
SFr	1.4053*	(1.4100)
Yen	126.94*	(126.32)
$ Index	106.3	(106.3)

Tokyo close Yen 125.88

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb)	$18.85	($18.85)

GOLD

London close	$304.25	($304.95)

* denotes midday trading price

Peps lost £1bn as markets crashed

By Gavin Lumsden

PRIVATE investors lost £1 billion in Peps as stock markets crashed last month, new figures show.

According to the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds the value of investments held within Peps fell from £35.86 billion in September to £34.86 billion in October. This represents a loss of nearly £140 for each of the 7.15 million Pep accounts currently open.

City institutions shared the pain as overall funds under management, including unit trusts, slumped £10.4 billion to £156.2 billion.

Both private and institutional investors continued to pour out of the Far East. Private investors in particular raced home, putting three quarters of the £504 million they invested in funds picking UK companies. However, they also put a record £75 million into North American funds.

Uncertainty about the Government's attitude to Peps as it prepares to introduce the individual savings account (Isa) saw a sharp drop in the tax shelter's share of gross sales from 56 per cent to 43 per cent.

Climbdown by Microsoft

By Jason Nissé

MICROSOFT, the huge American software group, was forced into a humiliating climbdown by the European Commission yesterday when it lifted a ten-year restriction on rival computer operating systems that meant they had to be compatible with out-of-date Microsoft systems.

Santa Cruz Operation (SCO), an American company with annual sales of only $200 million (£120 million), had taken Microsoft to the EC to force it to remove a contract term from an agreement made in 1987 on the manufacture of Unix software.

Unix is the main rival to Microsoft NT in the market for operating systems for business computing. SCO complained that inserting the Microsoft code made the Unix systems less competitive. Yesterday Microsoft waived the contract terms and freed SCO to make the Unix systems any way it likes.

Geoff Seabroke, vice-president of SCO, said: "This is a victory for the little man. The EC has told Microsoft that if it wants to beat us it has to do it by fair means not foul."

News Corp stake for prince

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

THE News Corporation, the parent company of *The Times*, yesterday confirmed that Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, one of the world's richest men, had bought about 5 per cent of the non-voting stock of the company.

Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corp, welcomed Prince Alwaleed, a nephew of King Fahd and grandson of Saudi Arabia's founding father Ibn Saud, as a shareholder.

The Prince's investment represents just over 2 per cent of all News Corp stock. Prince Alwaleed, who is believed to be worth more than $12 billion, told *Time* magazine he had drawn up a list of 40 companies to consider as investment targets. In the end he chose four, spending a total of $1.2 billion (£710 million).

Apart from News Corp the Prince bought about 5 per cent of Netscape Communications, the Web browser specialist, and Motorola, the mobile phone and microchip manufacturer. The identity of the fourth company has not yet been disclosed, as Prince Alwaleed is still buying stock.

Captains of industry join diplomatic corps

The Foreign Office's newly appointed business ambassadors include Paul Smith, left, Lord Paul, Anita Roddick, Sir Colin Southgate, Sir Ronald Hampel and Sir Ralph Robins

By Michael Binyon
Diplomatic Editor

ROBIN COOK, Foreign Secretary, will today sign up 35 leading business people to be roving ambassadors for Britain after Labour's promise to give business a greater say in diplomacy.

The captains of industry will use their trips abroad to promote Britain's wider commercial interests, call on ministers, deliver keynote speeches and talk informally to prominent local businessmen. They may extend their tours abroad to give dinners, lobby for British business or promote British exports.

A notable absentee from the list is Richard Branson. His Virgin airline is a bitter rival of BA, whose chairman is among the new business ambassadors. The Foreign Office yesterday said that there was no particular reason why Mr Branson was not on the list, and that he already served the country in many and various ways.

The new ambassadors, who will have breakfast with Mr Cook this morning, include Sir Iain Vallance, chairman of British Telecom, Sir Colin Marshall, of British Airways, Sir Ronald Hampel of ICI, Sir Ralph Robins, of Rolls-Royce, as well as the clothing designer Paul Smith and Anita Roddick, chairman of Body Shop, who has been outspoken on human rights issues.

Others due at the breakfast include: Lord Paul, of Caparo; Sir Colin Southgate, of EMI; Patrick Gillam, of Standard Chartered Bank; Sir Nigel Rudd, of Williams Holdings; Sir Christopher Benson, of Royal & SunAlliance; Sir Robert Clarke, of Thames Water; David John, of British Oxygen; Nicholas Scheele, of Jaguar; John Neill, of Unipart; Martin Sorrell, of WPP; Tony Pedder, of British Steel; Allan Gormly, of BPB; David Brown, of Motorola; and Robert Wilson, of Rio Tinto.

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Barclay's son raises £14m for casino

By Dominic Walsh

THE Barclay twins, David and Frederick, were yesterday said to have no financial interest in the company bidding to win a casino licence for the London Ritz, which the Barclays own.

Opening the licence application before the South Westminster gaming committee yesterday, George Carman, QC, said the Barclay twins were completely uninvolved with the venture. "They have no legal or financial interest in this at all," he said. "This company has one shareholder, Mr Aidan Barclay."

Aidan Barclay, the son of David, has put together funding worth £14.5 million behind his bid and is pursuing the application through a newly formed company, Ritz Hotel Casino (RHC), in which he is the sole shareholder.

Mr Barclay, 41, told the committee that the Royal Bank of Scotland had provided RHC with a £5 million overdraft, he himself had injected equity capital of £3 million and there was a special reserve of £6.5 million as required by the Gaming Board.

He said that if a licence were granted, around £1.5 million would be spent upgrading the Ritz Club, which is currently operated by London Clubs International. LCI's lease runs out on June 31, 1998, at which point it will take the casino licence to new premises.

Among the directors of RHC is Michael Seal, managing director of Ellerman Investments, one of the Barclay family's holding companies.

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Typical Example. A £80,000 interest only mortgage on a property valued at £100,000 repaid over 25 years. [illegible]

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

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ITV's tactics will cost it advertisers, says agency

By Raymond Snoddy, media editor

BILLETS, the independent advertising consultancy, will issue a stark warning later this week that the new sales strategy of ITV could force a number of youth and upmarket advertisers to drop ITV altogether.

The company's trading forecasts for 1998 predict that "there are real problems in store for ITV as a business — not much more revenue and fewer advertisers". ITV's hopes rest on a new schedule of programmes pushing soap operas such as *Emmerdale* and *Coronation Street*.

Billets forecasts that the total net value of the commercial airtime market will be £2.57 billion — a rise of 6 per cent, or £142 million. Despite the help of the World Cup finals in France in the second quarter, Billetts believes that ITV revenue will grow by 2 per cent, a decline in real terms.

Channel 4 will increase revenue by 3 per cent, satellite by 20 per cent from a relatively low base and Channel 5, with the help of its first full year on air, will rise by 63 per cent. Billets estimates that Channel 5 will take £135 million in advertising next year.

John Billett, chief executive of Billetts, which specialises in measuring advertising media effectiveness, will advise clients to reject attempts by the three big ITV sales houses to demand guaranteed shares of advertising agencies' total client TV expenditure.

"By asking the market to prop up its market share, ITV is effecively seeking a higher price for its product, which is already more expensive than its competitors'," said Mr Billett.

By putting increased pressure on advertisers who are less reliant on ITV, Mr Billett said: "There is a strong probability that a number of youth and upmarket advertisers will decide to drop ITV altogether."

The consultancy estimates that ITV's audience decline will slow to a 3 per cent loss, with Channel 4 losing 4 per cent. ITV's share of the number of eyeballs on advertisements will dip below 60 per cent in 1998. For the 16-34 audience the total will fall below 50 per cent, and for children to 43 per cent.

In the past five years ITV has lost 15 per cent of its share of male viewing. Mr Billett believes a high proportion of those now missing are upmarket individuals.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.54	2.36
Austria Sch	21.63	19.97
Belgium Fr	63.67	58.71
Canada $	2.528	2.340
Cyprus Cyp£	0.903	0.831
Denmark Kr	11.75	10.86
Finland Mkk	9.40	8.65
France Fr	10.28	9.50
Germany Dm	3.10	2.85
Greece Dr	486	447
Hong Kong $	13.90	12.70
Iceland	121	101
Ireland Pt	1.18	1.09
Israel Shk	6.35	5.70
Italy Lira	3052	2815
Japan Yen	229.13	211.60
Malta	0.682	0.623
Netherlds Gld	3.494	3.199
New Zealand $	2.86	2.62
Norway Kr	12.54	11.60
Portugal Esc	311.53	289.50
S Africa Rd	8.89	7.93
Spain Pta	258.79	240.00
Sweden Kr	13.80	12.50
Switzerland Fr	2.53	2.31
Turkey Lira	331338	311460
USA $	1.797	1.654

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

YORKSHIRE TELEVISION

New scheduling at ITV will put more emphasis on soap operas such as *Emmerdale*

Opec plans to reshuffle oil quotas

OPEC ministers headed to Jakarta yesterday aiming to perform a delicate balancing act that would allow them to pump more crude without panicking skittish oil markets into a price slide (George Sivell writes).

Saudi Arabia aims to orchestrate the first big reshuffle of production quotas in four years and shore up market sentiment in the trading pits that arbitrate what the world pays for energy.

Opec will have to fashion a quota structure that reflects the group's actual supplies to the market.

Survey highlights telecoms worries

By Raymond Snoddy, media editor

AN INDEPENDENT survey for British Telecom has found that European businesses fear that their global competitiveness could be damaged if telecommunications liberalisation is not implemented effectively across Europe.

In particular, businesses expressed concern that they face disadvantages if their country lags behind when telecoms markets are officially opened up to competition throughout the European Community on January 1. The survey, conducted by Research International on behalf of BT, found that more than half of Europe's business leaders were not aware of the significance of January 1, 1998, for telecoms competition.

Two thirds of business leaders criticised the pace at which liberalisation is being implemented, and 86 per cent agreed that telecommunications is critical to their competitiveness in a global marketplace. The survey shows that 85 per cent of Europe's business leaders welcome "a more open and competitive market".

Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive of BT, said that BT is well placed to bring choice to the market through joint ventures. He added: "We look forward to delivering the high reliability, competitive pricing and excellent customer service that our customers demand."

Enterprise wins licence in claim dispute area

From Caroline Gluck in Phnom Penh

ENTERPRISE OIL has been awarded a licence in a disputed part of the Gulf of Thailand after two years of prolonged negotiations.

However, it remains conditional on the dispute between Cambodia and Thailand over the so-called overlapping claim area being resolved.

Thailand issued petroleum concessions for the zone in the Seventies, but no work has been carried out even though the claim area is thought to contain large potential gas reserves and, possibly, significant oil reserves.

Cambodia and Thailand held two rounds of talks in Bangkok in 1995 on their overlapping continental shelves, saying they were a constructive start to the idea of jointly developing the area. Further talks are expected to be held early next year.

The agreement will net Cambodia $9.4 million (£5.6 million) once the dispute with Thailand is resolved.

Enterprise will become one of five petroleum companies that will pay the Phnom Penh Government a further $36.77 million in placement contracts.

The company is joined by BHP of Australia, Conoco of America, and Inpex and Idemitsu of Japan.

Pou Sothirak, Cambodia's Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy, said that the agreement marked an important investment in the future of the country.

He added: "Today is a historic day. Cambodia is privileged to sign a conditional petroleum agreement with these major oil companies so we can proceed with our efforts to rebuild the economy of the nation. I think this will be the major income of hard currency for Cambodia."

The minister said that the signing showed international investors had confidence in Cambodia — a country whose image was badly dented after a coup in July that led to the ousting of Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the country's former First Prime Minister.

☐ Premier Oil yesterday announced a gas discovery off Burma. It was the company's fourth successful discovery this year.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Stylo gives new lead to Hush Puppies

STYLO has entered an agreement with Wolverine Worldwide to allow around 75 of its Hush Puppies shops to be converted to existing formats of Barratts and Saxone shoe shops and Instep Sports. The company also said that an improvement in trade in the past few weeks is expected to continue to the end of the financial year. In August 1996, Stylo acquired 120 Hush Puppies and 60 Saxone shops and entered into an exclusive agreement with Hush Puppies (UK) to operate free-standing Hush Puppies shops. Stylo has now entered into a new arrangement, which, it said, "will benefit the business by re-organising the Hush Puppies chain to produce enhanced profitability".

The company said that, during the past year, it has successfully started to rationalise the shops portfolio and has carried out a trial in 34 units converting some Hush Puppies and Saxone shops to either Barratts or Instep. The intention is to create one shoe shop and one sports shop in each city. Where the city or town is large enough, a second shoe shop will trade as either Saxone or Hush Puppies.

Mapco sold for $2.7bn

THE Williams Cos, the American energy and communications group, is to buy Mapco, which markets natural gas liquids and propane in the US, for $2.7 billion (£1.6 billion) in stock. Williams will exchange 0.8325 of a share for each Mapco share in a tax-free swap. Based on Williams's $55.44 Friday closing share price, the deal values Mapco at $46.15 a share, a 21 per cent premium over its $38.13 Friday close. Williams said that the deal, requiring shareholders' consent, would let it increase its energy services earnings and rely less on its core natural gas pipelines and maturing communications business.

Firstbus £80m order

FIRSTBUS has placed an £80.8 million order for almost 800 high-specification vehicles, which will be brought into service over an 18-month period from March. The company said that the order covered a range of state-of-the-art buses, including 535 single-deck and double-deck vehicles and "midibuses" and 40 new-generation, low-floor articulated buses for use in urban areas from next summer. The order also includes 105 minibuses. All vehicles are low-emission models and have lower noise levels, complying with the latest European emission standards, the company said.

Grid buys copper stake

NATIONAL GRID said that in conjunction with MPI International it has bought a majority interest in the power division of Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM) for $50 million (£29.6 million). National Grid said the cash consideration will be contributed equally by both companies and will result in each acquiring slightly less than a 40 per cent stake in the Copperbelt Energy Consortium (CEC), formed for the purposes of the acquisition. Additional consideration and investment of up to $14.75 million will be payable.

Euro costs proposal

COSTS incurred by companies to convert computer software for the millennium and to cope with the euro being introduced on the Continent will all have to be charged directly against profits under a new ruling proposed by the Accounting Standards Board. The board's Urgent Issues Task Force has issued draft rulings forcing companies to disclose in their accounts how much they spend or are committed to spend on these measures. Comments on the proposals, which also cover taxes on gains from hedging, are invited by January 12.

Recommended Cash Offer
by
Merrill Lynch International
on behalf of
ML Invest PLC
a wholly-owned subsidiary of
Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.
for
Mercury Asset Management Group plc

Merrill Lynch International announces on behalf of ML Invest PLC ("ML Invest"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. that, by means of an offer document dated and posted on 24 November 1997 (the "Offer Document"), Merrill Lynch International is making a recommended offer (the "Offer") on behalf of ML Invest to acquire the entire issued share capital of Mercury Asset Management Group plc ("Mercury"). Terms defined in the Offer Document have the same meanings in this advertisement.

A Mercury Shareholder who validly accepts the Offer will receive £17.00 in cash for every Mercury Share. In addition, Mercury Shareholders will be entitled to receive and retain the interim dividend of 12.5p (net) per Mercury Share declared on 6 November 1997 in respect of the six months ended 30 September 1997.

The Offer values the entire issued share capital of Mercury at approximately £3,108 million.

Instead of choosing to receive the cash consideration under the Offer, Mercury Shareholders (other than certain overseas shareholders) who validly accept the Offer will be entitled to exchange all or part of their holdings of Mercury Shares for Loan Notes. The Loan Notes will be issued on the basis of £1 nominal of Loan Notes for every £1 of cash otherwise available under the Offer.

The full terms and conditions of the Offer and the Loan Note Alternative (including details of how the Offer may be accepted) are set out in the Offer Document and the Form of Acceptance.

Mercury Shareholders who accept the Offer may rely only on the Offer Document and the Form of Acceptance for all the terms and conditions of the Offer (including the Loan Note Alternative).

Copies of the Offer Document and Forms of Acceptance are available for collection from The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Registrar's Department, New Issues Section, 5-10 Great Tower Street, London EC3R 5ER.

The Offer is being made by means of the Offer Document and is being made to all Mercury Shareholders including those to whom the Offer Document may not be despatched who hold, or who are entitled to have unconditionally allotted or issued to them, Mercury Shares. The Offer will be open for acceptance until 3.00 p.m. on 15 December 1997 (or such later time(s) and/or date(s) as ML Invest, subject to the rules of the Code, may decide).

The board of Mercury, which has been so advised by Lazard Brothers, stated that it considers the terms of the Offer to be fair and reasonable and has unanimously recommended Mercury Shareholders to accept the Offer. The directors of Mercury have irrevocably undertaken to accept the Offer in respect of their beneficial holdings amounting to 1,907,524 Mercury Shares and representing approximately 1.0 per cent. of Mercury's issued share capital. In providing advice to the board of Mercury, Lazard Brothers has taken into account the commercial assessments of the directors of Mercury.

The Offer is not being made, directly or indirectly, in or into the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan and the Offer is not capable of acceptance from within the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan. Accordingly, neither the Offer Document nor the accompanying Form of Acceptance is being, and must not be, mailed or otherwise forwarded or distributed or sent in or into the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan.

The Loan Notes to be issued pursuant to the Offer have not been, and will not be, registered under the Securities Act or under any relevant securities laws of any state of the United States or any relevant securities laws of Canada, Australia or Japan. Accordingly, unless an exemption is available under the Securities Act or relevant securities laws, the Loan Notes may not be offered, sold or delivered, directly or indirectly, in or into the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan.

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The directors of ML Invest and the members of the Executive Committee of the board of directors of Merrill Lynch listed in the Offer Document accept responsibility for the information contained in this advertisement and, to the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case), the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

25 November 1997

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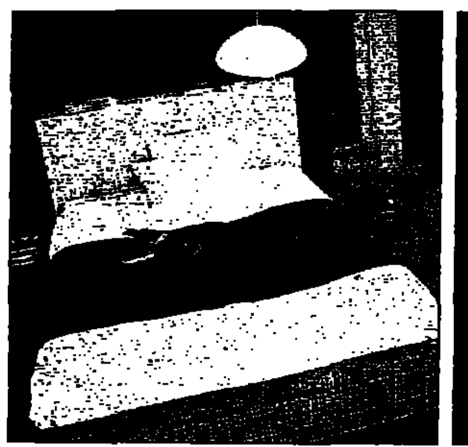
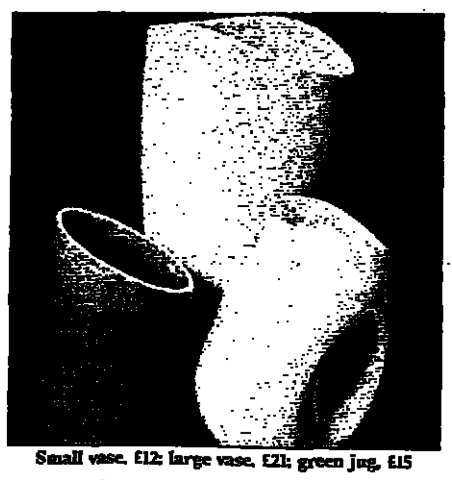


Hand-woven rattan bed, £449; floor lamp, £60



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Red fruit, citrus, and winter spice vinegars, £9.95 each

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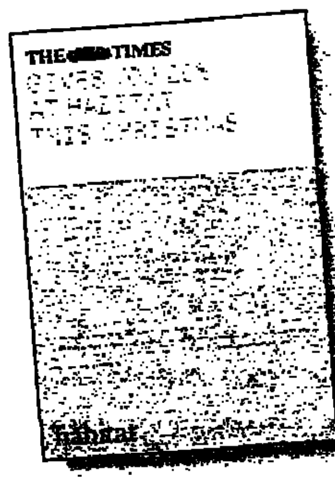

This week *The Times* gives you the opportunity to save 20% on your shopping bill at Habitat. The offer is available until December 21 at all 40 Habitat stores in the UK and Republic of Ireland. A Habitat shopping card (illustrated left) was inserted FREE with yesterday's newspaper. To qualify for your discount simply attach, to the card, three differently numbered tokens (token two is below) from the six published in *The Times* this week, plus the token which will appear in The Sunday Times on November 30. Your completed shopping card entitles you to buy as many items as you wish on a single shopping trip and to receive a 20% discount on your total bill. Normal TNL rules apply. For details of your nearest Habitat store call 0645 33 44 33.

- **If you did not receive your FREE shopping card with yesterday's newspaper, please call: 0171-481 3377 (24 hours)**

THE TIMES
TOKEN 2

CHANGING TIMES

Japan's recession is the worry

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Anything can happen. Yesterday's long-trailed collapse of Yamaichi Securities could even prove to be the final cathartic collapse before Japan's financial system turns round. The world's number two economy has suffered a spiral of financial decline since its bubble burst in 1990. There has to be an end, but it will not come for a while yet without a discernible change in policy in Tokyo.

After Wall Street's collapse in 1929, shares did finally ground in the summer of 1932, albeit with the Dow Jones average at only 42. Britain's dispiriting equity and property price collapse of 1973-74 seemed to be getting even worse when Burmah Oil was rescued by the Bank of England as 1975 opened. Instead, that proved to be the turning point.

The demise of Yamaichi, following the Bank of Hokkaido, is like earlier failures of Japanese institutions only big enough to cause any investor to gasp and worry. Yamaichi still followed old Japanese customs when the supporting mechanisms of the corporate state had been knocked away. So did others.

Logically, Yamaichi's fate should make life harder for others, whatever soothing words the authorities put out. Since the Nikkei share index peaked at nearly 39,000 at the end of 1989, investors have three times seen it tumble to about 15,000 and then rebound, most recently a fortnight ago. If shares plunge through this support level, the ground is the limit. If they hold, there is a chance the Yamaichi drama will prove a true crisis.

Japan's economy seemed to recover from recession in 1995-96, but recovery was nipped in the bud when the Government prematurely tightened taxes by more than 2 per cent of national income to pay the recession bill. Money is cheap already, too cheap for hard-pressed investors. So the obvious way for the Japanese Government to help is the way few now dare to consider: printing money to support the financial system.

Hong Kong, London and New York were right to avoid a panic reaction to the news from Tokyo. The risk is not yet one of financial contagion, since the causes of Yamaichi's collapse have no echo in the West. The financial risk is that the withdrawal of funds from US bond markets by Japanese institutions will accelerate again if the Nikkei crumbles, raising long rates.

The more insidious risk is to the world economy. Japan and the wounded Asian "tiger" economies account for more than a fifth of world output and are likely to be locked in recession for years. They could push the rest of us over the brink. Only the US economy and the EU bloc are bigger. The former is at a stage when a mild recession is as big a danger as inflation accelerating. After next year, EU countries signing up for monetary union will be keener to establish the credentials of their new currency than to sustain their recoveries.

Western markets would be as foolish to ignore this threat as Tokyo was to close its eyes to the meaning of the 1987 crash.

Horses for courses at GEC

For a man who has spent 39 years with the same company, Sir Roger Hurn has earned an impressive reputation as an agent of change. If today brings the expected confirmation of his biggest change yet, a move to the chairmanship of GEC, then Lord Weinstock's creation will be assured of entering the new millennium in good shape. That needs to be radically different to today's.

The former Agriculture Minister, Lord Prior, has proved to be a far more effective chairman of GEC than seemed likely when he took on the role. His affable style made him a super-salesman for the company as he traversed the world, leaving Lord Weinstock ensconced in GEC's meagre headquarters, counting the pennies and ruling out acquisitions in favour of joint ventures.

Prior's role was clear: to open the doors, bring in the contracts and not interfere with the way Lord Weinstock ran his business. Today GEC needs a very different chairman, and Sir Roger fits the bill perfectly.

Weinstock chose to hand over his title to George Simpson, although the power to go with it took a little prising out. Whatever his inclinations, the current corporate governance standards could not countenance the now enobled Lord Simpson of Dunkeld having the same proprietorial powers as did his predecessor. The new chairman will have to provide a strong counterpoint to Lord Simpson's ambitions.

As chief executive and then chairman at Smiths, Sir Roger streamlined the business, creating a group with three clean cut divisions.

This is in stark contrast to GEC's plethora of companies and joint ventures that appear to have been structured by expert contortionists. Lord Simpson has already decreed his preference for extricating himself from these sometimes uncomfortable positions. Sir Roger has the experience and standing to help in negotations which will, inevitably, be tricky.

Floating GEC Alsthom next year would be a major step in sorting out GEC. A price tag of up to £4 billion would add to GEC's already loaded coffers and could encourage Lord Simpson to go on a spending spree. At that stage, Sir Roger's experience of value-for-money acquisitions would be a huge asset. But it is debatable whether this industrial paragon would have saved Lord Simpson from his recent bruising row with investors over boardroom pay: Sir Roger's package last year was worth more than £1.6 million.

Flying the flag for Britain

It is good to know that when Anita Roddick is next in the Borneo jungles discussing the relative merits of native unguents, she will also take the time to bang the drum for Britain plc.

Ms Roddick is just one of the famous names now set forth to sell for Britain by Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook.

The idea of bringing business expertise to bear on the Foreign Office is admirable. Already, under the last government, the idea of export promoters, seconded from industry, had begun to generate business. These were people who had gained inside knowledge of particular markets from actually selling to them. As export promoters, their expertise was to be made available to other companies who wanted to tackle new markets.

Today's initiative is far glossier than the sensible idea of seconding managers into the Department of Trade and Industry, but will it be any more effective? Sir Colin Marshall already takes it upon himself to be an ambassador for Britain, albeit without benefit of royal insignia. The array of organisations he represents, in between carrying out his tasks as chairman of British Airways, would hardly seem to leave room for any further efforts, let alone speaking engagements.

Strong words from famous names are unlikely to win contracts for smaller companies. Help with more mundane matters such as funding for overseas exhibitions would be less glamorous but probably more effective.

Clearly unclear

THIS afternoon the Chancellor of the Exchequer will tell us all what we have to think about over the next few months. That, at least, is the theory of a not-to-be-called-"green" Budget. But given what has so far been leaked about his intentions, from penalising private mileage to instituting a 10p starting rate for income tax, it is not quite clear how much consulting he intends to do before delivering the real Budget next spring.

Allied Colloids rejects £1.1bn bid by US group

By Paul Durman

ALLIED COLLOIDS, the chemicals company, is fighting to stay independent after rejecting a £1.1 billion cash offer from Hercules, a larger American chemicals group.

The initial response from the City suggested that the offer of 155p a share is not enough for Hercules to be sure of victory. Shares in Allied Colloids jumped 41½p, to 167½p, with some analysts saying that a bidder will have to offer close to 180p to win control.

David Farrar, chief executive of Colloids, said: "This is an unwelcome bid. We are not up for sale. We have got a bright, independent future. We are in high-growth markets and we have got exciting prospects."

Colloids, whose chemicals are used in pollution control and papermaking, pointed to its record of sales growth averaging 11 per cent a year. However, Mr Farrar agreed that its profits record was less impressive.

ALAN WELLER

Keith Elliott, chairman of Hercules, in London yesterday

Hercules, which makes chemicals used in paper, food and paint, said that shares in Colloids had underperformed the UK market by 30 per cent or more over one, two and three years. Keith Elliott, chairman, criticised Colloids's investment record, saying: "Return on capital has been consistently heading downhill."

Hercules said its offer was 53 per cent above the October low for Colloids shares, of 101½p, and 35 per cent above the price before bid speculation began last Tuesday.

Colloids recently received a tentative approach from another potential purchaser, but said on Friday that talks had ended. Suggestions of other possible bidders include Dow Chemical, Ciba Speciality, BASF and Elf Atochem.

Mr Elliott had lunch with Mr Farrar a few months ago, but Hercules first contacted Colloids about a deal on Saturday. At a meeting on Sunday at the offices of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, its adviser, Hercules asked Colloids to name a price its board would be willing to recommend.

Mr Elliott said that the two groups would form a very attractive portfolio of complementary chemical businesses, with enhanced prospects for all employees. Any cost cutting would be decided by a team from both companies.

Tempus, page 30

Paragon sales jump 118%

By Chris Ayres

PARAGON, the reformed finance group, yesterday denied that it was growing too fast after it revealed that total funds lent had reached more than £1 billion in 1997 and mortgage sales had jumped 118 per cent.

The company, which changed its name from National Home Loans, recently diversified into consumer finance and vehicle contract hire. Yesterday it reported a 19 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the year to September 30, from £18.1 million to £21.6 million.

Earnings per share grew 19 per cent, from 20.6p to 24.6p, and a final dividend of 1.5p will be paid on February 2, bringing the total dividend to 2.7p, up from 2.4p in 1996.

BAe deal risks Airbus conflict

From Oliver August in New York

BRITISH AEROSPACE is risking a dispute with its partners in the Airbus consortium by concluding a ten-year supply deal with Boeing, the main competitor to Airbus.

BAe will supply wing parts to Boeing's 737 jets, bailing out Boeing at a time of corporate turmoil. Last month Boeing announced it was taking a £1.6 billion charge to deal with production problems.

Assembly lines for the 737 were closed down for several weeks after Boeing's regular suppliers could not cope with extra demand. Airbus is competing with Boeing on almost every airline order.

BAe has tried very hard this year to dispell the impression that it is not fully committed to the consortium, but reports of a transatlantic tie-up have repeatedly swept the markets. An insider at Aerospatiale, the French Airbus partner, said: "BAe is disappointed with us that privatisation [of Aerospatiale] and the creation of a single corporate entity is going so slowly. We try not to revive the old stereotypes about British commitment to Europe and British self-interest."

BAe said: "There was a competitive bidding process for this contract and we won. In the aerospace industry it is not unusual that people work for one another."

The City is not convinced that the deal will not upset Airbus partners. Chris Avery, aerospace analyst at Paribas, said: "They may not be happy to find that British Aerospace has made a free-market decision to take part in Boeing production, and it wouldn't do much for the European perception of British commitment to Airbus."

Delphi tries to placate its investors

By Paul Durman

DELPHI, the IT staff provider, has attempted to address one of the investor concerns about its forthcoming Nasdaq listing by reserving up to two million shares for placing with its existing UK institutions.

Some institutions were unhappy about the Nasdaq placing, which is expected to raise about £35 million next month, because it will deny them so-called pre-emption rights and therefore dilute their ownership of the company.

Delphi's third-quarter results show pre-tax profits rising 31 per cent to £3.8 million. A higher tax charge and an increase in the number of shares in issue restricted earnings growth to 13 per cent. The nine-month figures show pretax profits 25 per cent up at £10.8 million.

Tempus, page 30

Abbott Mead Vickers buys O'Connell group

By Chris Ayres

THREE senior employees of The O'Connell Partnership, the marketing group, could share £300,000 in incentive payments after the purchase of the company by Abbott Mead Vickers, its larger rival, for up to £2.5 million.

It is not known which O'Connell employees will receive the incentives, although Bernard O'Connell, the company's founder, will not benefit because he is a big shareholder and will have already significanly gained from the sale. O'Connell's clients include Avon and Next.

Momentum, a subsidiary of AMV, has paid £700,000 in cash from existing resources for the business, and is to make three payments — according to O'Connell's performance — in loan notes or shares. Ian Jacob, Momentum, chief executive, said: "O'Connell's skill base complements that of Momentum to a remarkable degree."

Profits warning puts Bluebird to flight

By Fraser Nelson

SHARES of Bluebird Toys lost 19 per cent of their value yesterday after the company said that problems in developing its North American market would force its profits below market expectations.

Mattell, the toy distributor, has told the company that it will not launch its Polly Pocket toys next year, but wait until 1999. It has promised to precede the next phase with a major relaunch.

The dolls, which generated 13 per cent of company's business last year, will continue to be distributed in other markets, but will leave profits below the £7.33 million expected in the City.

The warning comes six months after the company said other problems in the US and Canada would see a decline in half-year profits for the second consecutive year.

The shares, which were recovering from an 80p low, yesterday fell 18½p to 81½.

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Lafarge bid deadline extended

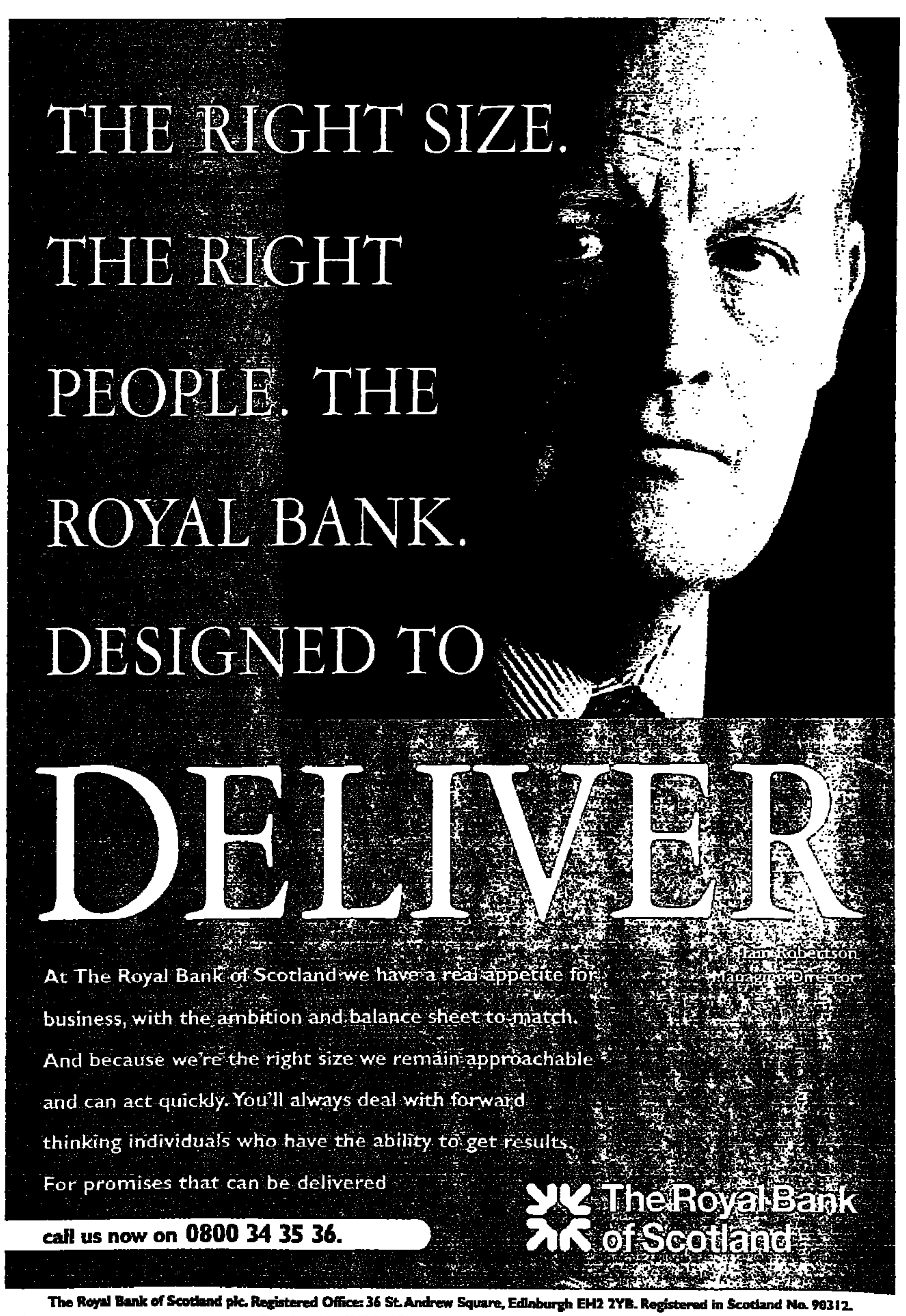
By Adam Jones

THE game of cat-and-mouse between Lafarge and Redland continued yesterday as the French group extended the deadline for acceptances of its 320p-a-share bid for the UK building materials company.

Redland shareholders now have until 3pm on December 5 to accept Lafarge's hostile bid. Lafarge revealed that it had received acceptances representing only 0.83 per cent of issued share capital by November 21. However, it is yet to approach institutions, waiting for Redland to start wooing shareholders with its own value-enhancing countermeasures.

As a central plank of its defence, Redland is expected to announce the sale of its interest in RBB, the world's biggest roof tile business, to the Braas family, one of RBB's main shareholders, for about £800 million. It is also understood to be in discussions with other parties regarding the disposal of further assets.

Lafarge is expected to announce on December 3 whether it will raise its offer. Redland shares closed down 1p at 336½p yesterday. The bid battle must be over by December 17.



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STOCK MARKET **MICHAEL CLARK**

Stock Market Writer of the Year

London losses contained in the wake of Yamaichi

CITY investors kept their cool in response to the collapse of Yamaichi, Japan's fourth-largest broking house, under debts of £15 billion.

Prices fell back across a broad front, but the meltdown that had been predicted in some quarters failed to materialise. Prices closed above their worst levels. The FTSE 100 index, down 102.2 at one stage, ended 87.2 lower at 4,898.6. Selling pressure was light, with just 658 million shares changing hands.

Traders said it could have been worse, but the opening losses on Wall Street were not as bad as had been feared and London kept its nerve. One trader summed it up: "We're not out of the woods yet, but it could prove sticky for Japan overnight and that could lead to a further sell-off today."

Merrill Lynch is taking an increasingly bearish view of the possible outcome. It has been telling clients that the problems of the Far East economies will have a significant negative impact on the profits of those British companies exposed to the region.

Reassuring noises from the Japanese central bank helped to calm the situation. In the meantime, investors must later today contend with the "Green Budget" proposals that will throw some light on Government spending for next year.

The shock waves from Yamaichi were clearly felt in the financial sector, where **HSBC** dropped 82p to £14.85, **Barclays** 24p to £14.35, **Lloyds TSB** 14p to 664p and **Standard Chartered** 46p to 682p. Some brokers back from Standard's operations in the Far East have expressed concern about the profile of its loan book, bearing in mind the recent problems of the "tiger" economies.

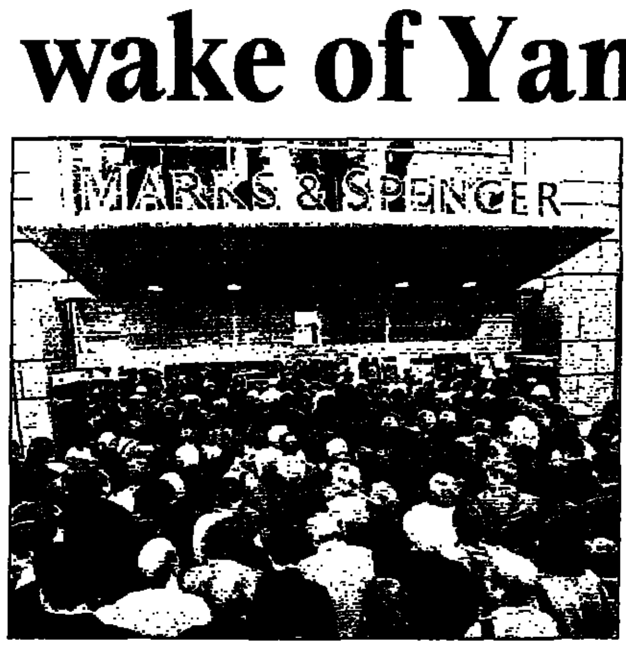
The collapse of Yamaichi sent a few ripples through the likes of **Fleming Japan Investment Trust**, down 6p at 136½p.

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, has also been expressing caution about the state of the domestic mortgage market, highlighting the falling loan volume, tighter margins and a slowdown in house price rises. **Abbey National** fell 21p to 949p, **Alliance & Leicester** 10½p to 707½p and **Woolwich** 11p to 290p.

Speculative buying drove **Chemring Group** 25½p higher to 164p. Weekend reports suggest a bid from either rivals **Cobham**, 5p dearer 773½p, or **Meggitt**, ½p lighter at 146p.

Those speculators that were prepared to pay a hefty premium for **Allied Colliods** on Friday, after it was announced that bid talks had been called off, were handsomely rewarded when Hercules, the US group, launched its £1 billion offer yesterday. The shares raced up 41½p to 167½p, topping the 155p being offered by Hercules as the Allied Colloids board rejected the offer. Almost 15 million Allied Colloids had changed hands by the close of business.

Suggestions that the **Halifax** may make an offer for **M&G Group** lifted the latter 12½p to £14.00. Halifax, down 35p 675p, is reckoned to have had talks already with the M&G management, but its approaches were rebuffed.



A broker's comment cost Marks & Spencer shares 18½p

There was some positive news at last for shareholders of **Safeway**, up 6½p at 325½p, which fell sharply after last week after issuing its second profits warning of the year. Deutsche Morgan Grenfell has moved from "neutral" to "overweight" despite the rash of profit downgradings that accompanied the figures.

Great Universal Stores was steady at 706p, after touching 706p. Merrill Lynch has issued a "buy" recommendation. But **Marks & Spencer** suffered with a fall of 18½p at 634½p after some cautious comments from Credit Lyonnais Laing. The price now stands 34p below its peak for the year.

Babcock International dropped 7p to 75p after BZW moved from a "buy" to a "sell".

Hanson is just a shadow of its former self after its four-way split, but according to ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, the shares are probably worth more than the market gives them credit. Hoare says the break-up value of the business is probably worth 350p a share. They closed 6½p dearer at 290½p.

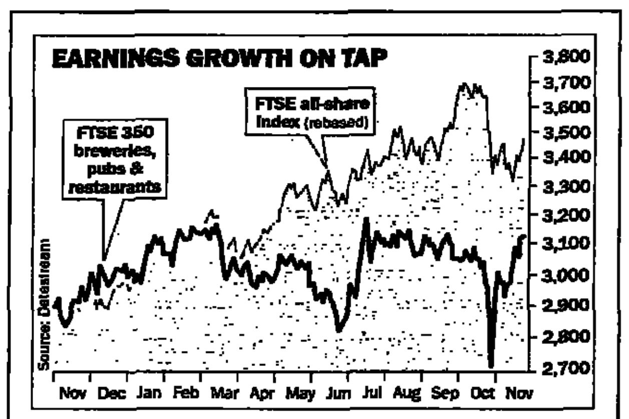
A profits warning just a few weeks before Christmas left **Bluebird Toys** nursing a loss of 18½p at 81½p. The group says that results for the current year are likely to be below market forecasts. Mattel, the US toy maker, will not now distribute its Polly Pocket dolls in the US in 1998.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: There was little scope for manouevre as far as investors were concerned, with many of them adopting a low-key approach ahead of today's "Green Budget". Already shaken by the Yamaichi collapse, many of them took the view it was better to do nothing rather than pay the price later.

The bond market still managed to achieve useful gains in thin trading.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt finished £$^{11}/_{32}$ better at £118⅞ in modest trading.

☐ **NEW YORK**: Shares were weaker in early trading, with investors unnerved by the demise of Yamaichi Securities in Japan. Traders said some downside correction was also probably due after the strong gains of last week. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 66.90 lower at 7,314.17.



PANMURE GORDON, the stockbroker, has reached the conclusion that most of us reached some time ago: that pub owners are effectively *Licensed to Print Money*. That is, in fact, the title of the broker's latest review of the licenced retail trade.

James Wheatcroft says: "The underlying premise of this note is that many of the smaller licensed retailers will be winners."

He says it is explained by the rapid development in the leisure market as a whole, with the UK starting to behave in an increasingly cosmopolitan manner. The pub has moved from being the central focus of local communities to being another competitor for the leisure pound in this more competitive climate.

Top of Mr Wheatcroft's shopping list is SFI Group, 2p easier at 105p. Its Litten Tree "all day" pub concept is successful, with unit turnover among some of the best in the industry. Others to make the "buy" list include Eldridge Pope, unchanged at 260½p; European Leisure, steady at 123½p; and Grosvenor Inns, marking time at 192½p.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 7814.17 (-66.90)
S&P Composite 955.49 (-7.60)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average Closed

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 10586.36 (+38.16)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index 875.46 (-23.15)

Sydney:
AO 2482.1 (-0.6)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3830.63 (-129.06)

Singapore:
Straits 1681.85 (+39.45)

Brussels:
General 13513.69 (-263.13)

Paris:
CAC-40 2802.48 (-59.22)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 1165.40 (-12.80)

London:
FT 30 3157.5 (-47.1)
FTSE 100 4898.6 (-87.2)
FTSE 250 4645.7 (-20.0)
FTSE 350 2363.7 (-35.8)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 2559.67 (-19.16)
FTSE All-Share 2310.99 (-33.63)
FTSE Non Financials 2359.39 (-25.48)
FTSE Fixed Interest 131.63 (-0.65)
FTSE Govt Secs 100.09 (+0.17)
Bargains 62091
SEAQ Volume 658.3m
US$ 1.6924 (+0.0029)
German Mark 2.9368 (-0.0163)
Exchange Index 104.2 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.4876
£:SDR 1.2321
RPI 159.5 Oct (3.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX 157.9 Oct (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Advance UK Tst	100	...
BCH Group	199½	- ½
BG 'B'	30½	...
Buckland Inv Wrts	10	...
Buckland Invstmnts	18½	...
CRC	109½	+ 1
Capital Opps Tst	113½	...
Cresco Intl	153½	...
Flmg Geared Units	#72½	...
Foresight Tech Wts	30	...
Foresight Tech	100	...
Gyrus Group	147½	...
Holmes Place	185	- 1½
Latchways (155)	169½	+ 1½
Maelor	103½	...
Metalsrussia	86½	...
Minorplanet Sys	54	+ ½
NSB Retail Sys	185	+ 2½
Newsquest (250)	238½	...
Northern Recrtmnt	116½	...
Nottingham Frst (70)	56½	...
SHL Group	259	- 3½
Savoy Asset Mngmt	113½	- 1
Workplace Tech	200	- 4½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Meyer Intl n/p (360)	13½	- 3½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Chemring 164p (+25½p)
Prism Rail 385p (+17½p)
PizzaExpress 821p (+14½p)
Logica 971½p (+14p)
RMC Gp 920p (+10p)
Cable Wireless 527p (+13½p)
Wintrust 357½p (+10p)

FALLS:
Euro Telecom 261p (-51p)
Gaskell 325p (-27½p)
Jardine Math 316p (-18¼p)
Helphire Gp 257½p (-14p)
Halifax 675p (-35p)
Norwich Union 358p (-17p)
Waddington 263½p (-12p)
Satgecoach 782½p (-35p)
Gen Accident 975p (-43p)
Boot (Henry) 305p (-12½p)
Hutch Whamp 395¼p (-16p)
DCS Gp 254½p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

Battling with Hercules

WHETHER or not Allied Colloids is knocked down by Hercules, the chemicals company will face a Herculean task to retain its independence. The British company gave the game away when it sought to draw attention to its consistent sales growth over the last ten years. As you might have guessed, a chart of the last decade shows sales rising elegantly and consistently into the sky, while profits remain stumbling around in the foothills.

Colloids defends the recent record by pointing to the difficulties caused by expensive raw materials in 1995. It will also try to demonstrate the benefits from last year's $234 million purchase of CPS Chemicals in the US. The fact remains that the longer-term record is uninspiring and the Hercules cash offers comforting certainty in troubled stock markets.

Despite sounding more like a medical condition than a company, Colloids certainly has its attractions. Its business is well spread around the globe, it has a good reputation for its technology, and it has substantial interests in fast-growing areas, most notably pollution control. The would-be bidder that was sniffing around last week may be persuaded to return to the table, and it is unlikely to be alone. Analysts reeled off the usual suspects as possible counter-bidders, including Dow Chemical, BASF, Ciba Speciality and Elf Atochem. Meanwhile, Hercules is making its offer, confident of some genuine industrial logic, such as in chemicals for paper-making.

Colloids is not as dead in the water as Redland. But cautious investors might like to take advantage of selling at the current market price.

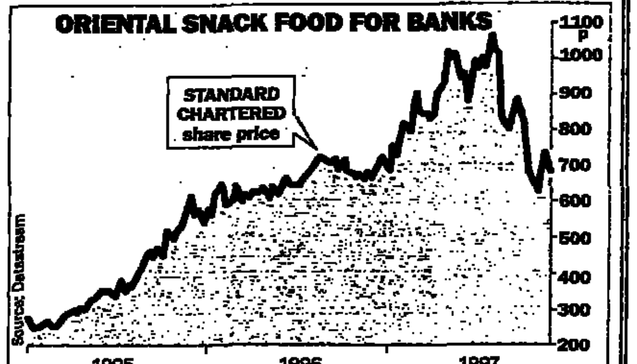
Standard Chartered

STUDENTS of banking history will remember the bitter battle for control of Standard Chartered Bank. After talks of a merger with Royal Bank of Scotland, Standard Chartered found itself at the end of an aggressive bid from Lloyds Bank. This squabble only ended with the intervention of the "white squires", a consortium of Far Eastern businessmen who saved Standard Chartered.

Well, it might all happen again. After years of misery and near-collapse, Standard Chartered is now one of the healthiest and most profitable banks in the world. Its international franchise, stretching around the Pacific Rim, through Latin America and the Middle East, is the envy of many. Not least Lloyds TSB which, having pared back until virtually nothing existed beyond Dover, is now interested in international expansion.

The Far East crisis has brought Standard Chartered shares from a peak of nearly £11 to just 682p yesterday. Lloyds TSB could offer about 950p and have its hand snapped off by investors. The result, an excellent world franchise for a bargain price of £10 billion.

Unlike the rumoured merger of Barclays and NatWest, this deal would provide no regulatory problems. It would also allow Lloyds TSB to deflect attention from its disappointing returns on the high street.



RM

AN INVESTMENT in RM is, in many ways, a display of trust in the Government more than the business itself. The educational technology group's shares look very expensive at 920p each — especially when you remember you could buy them for a couple of quid two years ago.

Much of that extra value stems from a genuinely strong business — RM managed to secure more than half of the £130 million market for education technology before the present Government swept to power. And it is hardly surprising that the City has got excited about new Labour's commitment to plough a further £100 million into the sector.

But governments are not known for their ability to keep promises. And if this sector really is going to triple in size over the next three years, as many analysts expect, RM could find itself trampled underfoot by larger companies fighting for a share of the action. Whatever happens, RM's shares look vulnerable at the current level. The company has already said that its first-half results will suffer as it waits for government spending to flow into schools. RM's experience should enable it to maintain a significant presence in an expanding and exciting market. But on more than 25 times this year's earnings forecasts, the shares look too expensive to justify a short-term punt.

Delphi

DELPHI is another company in one of the supposedly sexier areas of the IT market - providing staff to companies who are struggling to cope with the millennium bomb, the approach of EMU and the general pace of technological change. This has not prevented its share price declining steadily throughout the year, from 905p down to yesterday's close at 657½p.

The market had got a bit ahead of itself. But Delphi also encountered some signs of resistance from its corporate customers to keep forking out for contract staff. The third quarter results show UK sales moving ahead sharply, but also show other growing pains, including rising overheads. After the elimination of tax losses in the US, the tax charge is also rising.

The bull case is that next month's Nasdaq listing will highlight just how cheap Delphi looks alongside its more highly rated US rivals.

The benefit from this will not approach the 50 per cent uplift that is theoretically arguable.

However, Delphi's prospects remain sound. While the business continues to grow rapidly in the UK, the US and in Europe, the current price looks well underpinned, at around 16 times next year's earnings. Hold.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN

BRITISH FUNDS

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 4⅝% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.98	6.35
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 9¾% 1998	[illegible]		9.72	7.16
[illegible]	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100		7.25	7.29
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 14% 1998-01	[illegible]	[illegible]	13.56	7.21
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 15½% 1998	[illegible]		14.54	7.29
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 12% 1998	[illegible]		11.49	7.29
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9½% 1999	[illegible]		9.38	7.24
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	11.52	7.19
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 10½% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	10.03	7.11
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.10	6.98
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 10¼% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.68	7.07
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.65	6.98
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.78	6.91
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.27	7.06
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 13% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	11.40	7.04
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 10% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.20	6.92
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.95	6.81
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7% 2002	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.92	6.92
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9¾% 2002	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.73	6.82
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.58	6.72
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 10% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.67	6.75
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 11½% 2001-04	[illegible]	[illegible]	10.16	6.98
[illegible]	[illegible]	Fund 3½% 1999-04	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.93	5.49
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.23	6.68
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.70	6.63
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2005	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.61	6.56
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2005	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.17	6.66
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 12½% 2003-05	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.76	6.73
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7½% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.06	6.56
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.20	6.58
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2002-06	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.64	6.84
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.70	6.79
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2007	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.49	6.59
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 2007	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.88	6.51
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9% 2008	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.53	6.46
[illegible]	101	Treas 8% 2009	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.12	6.49
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6¼% 2010	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.42	6.58
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9% 2011	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.40	6.57
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9% 2012	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.34	6.57
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 5½% 2008-12	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.02	6.44
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.02	6.62
LONGS (over 15 years)						
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2013	114	[illegible]	7.02	6.58
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2015	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.90	6.49
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 2017	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.03	6.52
[illegible]	[illegible]	Tr 8% 2021	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.75	6.45
UNDATED						
[illegible]	[illegible]	War Ln 3½%	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.53	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 2½%	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.68	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Consols 4%	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.76	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					5%	3%
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.27	3.50
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.23	3.45
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.19	3.38
[illegible]	190	Treas IL 2% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.22	3.36
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2009	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.18	3.29
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2011	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.17	3.27
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2013	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.17	3.25
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2016	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.16	3.23
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2020	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.17	3.24
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2024	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.17	3.23
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.16	3.22

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Dec 97	118-30	119-03	118-24	118-28	41432
Previous open interest 188887	Mar 98	119-12	119-19	119-10	119-16	8598
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Dec 97	103.51	103.64	103.47	103.54	99713
Previous open interest 291968	Mar 98	102.82	102.94	102.80	102.85	3625
German Govt Bond (Bobl)	Dec 97	103.89	103.94	103.85	103.90	4062
Previous open interest 21859	Mar 98	103.19	103.24	103.17	103.22	490
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Dec 97	113.20	113.33	112.99	113.10	30316
Previous open interest 126749	Mar 98	113.67	113.67	113.44	113.45	1727
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Dec 97	129.55	129.55	129.20	129.35	1700
	Mar 98	128.50	128.65	128.50	128.60	178
Three Mth Sterling	Dec 97	92.37	92.38	92.35	92.36	11897
	Mar 98	92.30	92.35	92.30	92.32	14479
Previous open interest 763384	Jun 98	92.34	92.36	92.32	92.33	8373
Three Mth Euromark	Dec 97	96.20	96.20	96.17	96.18	11057
Previous open interest 1835566	Mar 98	96.07	96.08	96.05	96.06	19190
Three Mth Eurolira	Dec 97	93.87	93.87	93.81	93.82	13456
Previous open interest 539246	Mar 98	94.67	94.67	94.59	94.61	12104
Three Mth Euroswiss	Dec 97	97.89	97.94	97.89	97.93	8312
Previous open interest 143297	Mar 98	97.83	97.90	97.83	97.89	11470
Three Mth ECU	Dec 97	95.35	95.37	95.35	95.35	284
Previous open interest 38100	Mar 98	95.34	95.35	95.33	95.33	178
FTSE 100	Dec 97	4970.0	4972.0	4901.0	4928.0	8524
Previous open interest 71584	Mar 98	4975.0	4975.0	4962.0	4974.0	209

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 7½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7¼ Low 2 Week fixed: 7¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible] : 3 mth [illegible] . Sell: 2 mth [illegible] : 3 mth: [illegible] .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 7¼, close 6 .

Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.54	n/a	5.76	5.82	5.90
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4-3
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $305.00-305.30 **Close:** $304.00-304.50 **High:** $305.40-305.90
Low: $304.00-304.50 **AM:** $305.50 **PM:** $305.00

Krugerrand: $304.00-306.00 (£179.00-181.00)

Platinum: $390.50 (£231.05) **Silver:** $5.41 (£3.195) **Palladium:** $207.00 (£122.50)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Nov 24	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.3040-3.3132	3.3085-3.3115	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	60.460-60.690	60.516-60.636	24-19pr	61-54pr
Copenhagen	11.158-11.197	11.177-11.187	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dublin	1.1244-1.1333	1.1263-1.1286	13-7pr	41-34pr
Frankfurt	2.9315-2.9404	2.9355-2.9384	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lisbon	299.39-300.39	299.39-299.91	[illegible]	[illegible]
Madrid	247.65-248.44	247.96-248.27	57-46pr	168-150pr
Milan	2874.7-2884.2	2877.4-2881.4	32-16pr	100-77pr
Montreal	2.3982-2.4058	2.4035-2.4058	0.81-0.75pr	1.48-1.39pr
New York	1.6918-1.6940	1.6920-1.6930	0.266-0.247pr	0.738-0.707pr
Oslo	11.925-11.956	11.932-11.943	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paris	9.8160-9.8480	9.8280-9.8380	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	12.766-12.817	12.798-12.817	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	214.32-215.30	214.32-214.62	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vienna	20.625-20.695	20.659-20.680	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	2.3718-2.3780	2.3756-2.3780	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel *Premium = pr. Discount = ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.4403-1.4417
Austria	12.20-12.21
Belgium (Com)	35.77-35.78
Canada	1.4212-1.4217
Denmark	6.6014-6.6034
France	5.8062-5.8072
Germany	1.7335-1.7345
Hong Kong	7.7297-7.7307
Ireland	1.4997-1.5017
Italy	1700.0-1701.5
Japan	126.75-126.85
Malaysia	3.4450-3.4550
Netherlands	1.9536-1.9546
Norway	7.0510-7.0560
Portugal	177.16-177.26
Singapore	1.5890-1.5905
Spain	146.46-146.56
Sweden	7.5550-7.5625
Switzerland	1.4039-1.4044

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6910-1.6937
Australia dollar	2.4364-2.4396
Bahrain dinar	0.6315-0.6455
Brazil real*	1.8751-1.8797
China yuan	13.875-14.175
Cyprus pound	0.8490-0.8680
Finland markka	8.8100-8.9510
Greece drachma	455.75-466.25
Hong Kong dollar	13.0740-13.0834
India rupee	64.48-65.78
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5085-0.5195
Malaysia ringgit	5.8269-5.8472
New Zealand dollar	2.7097-2.7135
Pakistan rupee	73.00 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0975-6.2325
Singapore dollar	2.6919-2.6968
S Africa rand (com)	8.1080-8.2770
U A E dirham	6.1525-6.2885

*Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	612	Legal & Gn	1,300
ASDA Gp	5,300	Lloyds TSB	7,900
Abbey Ntl	1,700	LucasVarity	3,800
Allnce & Leic	1,700	Marks Spr	3,700
Allied Dom	2,700	NatWst Bk	1,700
AB Foods	304	Nat Grid	5,000
BAA	1,900	Nat Power	8,300
BAT Inds	2,700	Next	584
BG	8,800	Norwich Un	5,400
BOC	1,000	Orange	732
BP	8,400	P & O	1,000
BSkyB	1,800	Pearson	757
BTR	4,400	PowerGen	1,100
BT	13,800	Prudential	1,700
Bk of Scot	2,100	RMC	180
Barclays	1,400	Railtrack	2,500
Bass	788	Rank Group	1,900
Billiton	2,600	Reckitt Col.	2,000
Blue Circle	473	Reed Intl	2,400
Boots	1,300	Rentokil	4,700
BAe	975	Reuters	2,800
BA	1,600	Rio Tinto	1,600
British Land	1,900	Rolls Royce	1,500
Brit Steel	3,100	Royal & Sun	3,100
Cable Wire	3,300	Royal Bk Sct	1,700
Cadbury	1,100	Safeway	9,200
Carlton Cms	2,400	Sainsbury	924
Centrica	6,900	Schroders	31
Cm Union	1,200	Scot & New	300
Dixons	1,500	Scot Power	5,600
EMI	1,100	Svrn Trent	1,900
Energy Gp	1,900	Shell Trans	11,200
Enterpr Oil	1,300	Siebe	1,000
GKN	1,100	SmKl Bch	8,100
GRE	1,400	Smiths Inds	1,100
GUS	826	Std Chartd	2,100
Gen Acc	492	Sun Life	162
Gen Elec	4,900	TI Gp	1,000
Glaxo Well	2,700	Tesco	5,800
Granada	965	Thames W	943
Grand Met	1,300	Tomkins	1,900
Guinness	1,900	Unilever	5,000
HSBC	2,800	Utd Utilities	6,300
Halifax	2,900	Utd News	382
Hays	427	Vodafone	13,100
ICI	1,700	Whitbread	736
Kingfisher	1,300	Williams	901
LASMO	1,800	Wolseley	601
Ladbroke	1,200	Woolwich	2,700
Land Secs	987	Zeneca	3,300

WALL STREET

	Nov 24 midday	Nov 21 close
AMP Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
AMR Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
AT & T	[illegible]	[illegible]
Abbott Labs	[illegible]	[illegible]
Advanced Micro	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aetna Life	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ahmanson (HF)	[illegible]	[illegible]
Air Prod & Chem	[illegible]	[illegible]
AirTouch Comm	[illegible]	38
Albertson's	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alcan Alumnm	[illegible]	[illegible]
Allied Signal	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alum Co of Am	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amerada Hess	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amer El Power	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amer Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amer Genl Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amer Home Pr	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amer Intl	104	[illegible]
Amer Stores	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amer Standard	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ameritech	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amgen	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amoco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Andrew Corp	[illegible]	26
Anheuser-Busch	[illegible]	[illegible]
Apple Computer	[illegible]	[illegible]
Archer Daniels	22	[illegible]
Armco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Armstrong Wrld	[illegible]	[illegible]
Asarco	25	[illegible]
Atl Richfield	[illegible]	[illegible]
Atmel Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Auto Data Pro	[illegible]	[illegible]
Avery Dennison	[illegible]	[illegible]
Avon Products	[illegible]	[illegible]
Baker Hughes	[illegible]	[illegible]
Baltim Gas & El	[illegible]	[illegible]
Banc One	[illegible]	[illegible]
BankAmerica	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bank of NY	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bankers Tr NY	119	[illegible]
Barnett Banks	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bausch & Lomb	[illegible]	[illegible]
Baxter Intl	[illegible]	[illegible]
Becton Dicknsn	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bell Atlantic	[illegible]	[illegible]
BellSouth	[illegible]	[illegible]
Black & Decker	[illegible]	[illegible]
Block (H&R)	[illegible]	[illegible]
Boeing	[illegible]	[illegible]
Boise Cascade	[illegible]	35
Boston Scien	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bristol Myrs Sq	[illegible]	[illegible]
Browning Ferris	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brunswick	[illegible]	[illegible]
Burlington Nthn	93	[illegible]
CMS Energy Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
CPC Intl	[illegible]	[illegible]
CSX	[illegible]	[illegible]
Campbell Soup	[illegible]	55
Carolina Pwr	[illegible]	[illegible]
Case Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Caterpillar	[illegible]	[illegible]
Central & SW	23	[illegible]
Champion Intl	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chase Manhat	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chevron Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chrysler	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chubb Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cigna Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Citicorp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Clorox	[illegible]	[illegible]
Coastal Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Coca Cola	[illegible]	[illegible]
Coca Cola Ent	[illegible]	[illegible]
Colgate-Palm	[illegible]	[illegible]
Columbia Gas	72	[illegible]
ColumbiaHCA	[illegible]	30
Compaq Comp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Comp Ass Int	75	75
Conagra	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cons Edison	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cons Nat Gas	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cooper Inds	[illegible]	[illegible]
Corestates	[illegible]	[illegible]
Corning Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
C'wide Credit	[illegible]	[illegible]
Crestar Finl	[illegible]	[illegible]
Crown Cork	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dana Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dayton Hudson	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deere	[illegible]	[illegible]
Delta Air Lines	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deluxe Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Digital Equip	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dillard Dept St	[illegible]	[illegible]
Disney (Walt)	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dominion Res	[illegible]	[illegible]
Donnelley (RR)	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dover Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dow Chemical	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dow Jones	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dresser	[illegible]	[illegible]
Duke Power	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dun & Bradstreet	[illegible]	[illegible]
Du Pont	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eastman Chem	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eastman Kodak	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eaton Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]

	Nov 24 midday	Nov 21 close
Edison Int	[illegible]	[illegible]
Elect Data Sys	[illegible]	[illegible]
Emerson Elec	54	[illegible]
Engelhard Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Enron Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Entergy	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ethyl Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Exxon	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

	Nov 24 midday	Nov 21 close
Owens Corning	37	[illegible]
PPG Industries	[illegible]	[illegible]
PMI Group	[illegible]	[illegible]
PNC Bank	[illegible]	[illegible]
PP&L Res	23	[illegible]
Paccar Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pacificorp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pac Enterprises	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Sun sets on Yamaichi as other brokers look on from shadows

Few rivals can expect to benefit from the collapse. Richard Miles reports

News of Yamaichi's collapse under £15 billion of debt surprised no one in Tokyo financial circles after years of whispers

Few financial institutions can claim the distinction of celebrating their 100th anniversary by filing for bankruptcy. But this unfortunate accolade goes to Yamaichi, until yesterday Japan's fourth-largest securities broker.

News of Yamaichi's collapse under £15 billion of debt has surprised no one in Tokyo financial circles. It has been whispered for years that the broker harboured serious problems. As one investment banker said, the only surprise is that it has taken so long for Yamaichi to go under.

But coming on top of the failure earlier this month of Sanyo Securities, ranked seventh in the pecking order of brokerage firms, the world's financial community is now wondering whether Yamaichi's failure signals the beginning of the end for Japan's securities industry.

Certainly, for the smaller brokers such as Taiheiyo — 40 per cent owned by Yamaichi — the future looks bleak. The real concern is that the economic slump in Japan and a string of financial scandals may also bring the other so-called Big Four houses — Nomura, Daiwa and Nikko — to their knees.

To compound their difficulties, the Japanese Government is seemingly committed to a programme of financial deregulation. Some believe that by exposing the brokerage firms to increased foreign competition, while they are still mired in scandal and bad debt, the Ministry of Finance has effectively signed their death warrant.

With hindsight, Yamaichi's death has been a slow and painful one. The firm was once the country's biggest broker, but a series of poor lending decisions and dubious market practices brought it to the brink of bankrupty in 1965 when a stock market crisis drove investors to demand their money back.

Only a Y28.2 billion (£130 million) loan from the Government saved Yamaichi. Thereafter, the broker lurched from scandal to scandal.

Six years ago came the first reports of improper compensation to favoured clients, an off-balance sheet system known as *tobashi* deals, where bad loans are passed from one client account to another on the understanding that the firm will support the losses. Yesterday, Yamaichi admitted to *tobashi* liabilities totalling more than $2 billion (£1.2 billion).

Yamaichi then became heavily implicated in a corporate racketeering scandal, known as *sokaiya*, in which all of the Big Four have become embroiled. Under *sokaiya*, Japanese gangsters agree not to disrupt the public meetings of the brokers in return for hush-money. Although the amount of money involved is small, foreign observers have leapt on the scandal as proof that Tokyo's investment firms are corrupt to the core.

In August, in a belated attempt to shake off the scandal, Yamaichi sacked 11 top executives, including the president and the chairman. But still the rumours of its rottenness persisted.

"Not many people are surprised by this. There has been a level of corruption in the Japanese banking system for a number of years. You name it, they have done it. Now their incestuous relationships have come home to roost," says one senior securities executive.

Yesterday morning, Yamaichi had finally to make a clean breast of it. "This unexpected situation in our 100th anniversary is heartbreaking," said a tearful president, Shohei Nozawa. "We don't know how to beg the pardon of our customers, shareholders and many related people who care for us," he said.

But how far has the rot spread to other brokerage firms? The professional Cassandras are already predicting a "domino effect", as the collapse of one firm sends another toppling. "If clients start moving their money, then it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Most of the Japanese securities firms will go, certainly the second-tier brokers," forecasts one pessimist in the industry.

Arguably, the remaining Big Four could benefit from Yamaichi's ill-fortune. Nomura — head and shoulders above Daiwa and Nikko — is the obvious home for clients to take their money and their custom. Between them, these three firms could absorb Yamaichi's business — so long as investors believe that they can safely entrust their money to them. And that's a big if.

Ethics to one side, even the financial fundamentals look bad. Save for Normura, Japanese brokerage firms are not in the best of financial health. Nikko reported first-half profits of just Y283 million, a 98.7 per cent fall year-on-year. Daiwa performed a little better, reporting a 27 per cent drop in profits to Y15.53 billion. Yamaichi, the smallest of the four, plunged into the red with losses of Y2.72 billion, compared with a profit of Y2.07 billion in 1996.

Nomura was the only firm to buck the trend, turning a massive loss into a profit of Y49.7 billion. It also has size on its side. As one insider points out, a single UK deal last year — the purchase of 57,000 houses from the Ministry of Defence for £1.6 billion — was bigger in value than the market capitalisation of Nikko's entire European operation.

Craig Chudler, a Tokyo-based director of Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank, is convinced that Nomura and its bigger rivals can weather the economic storm and survive deregulation, including the impact of next year's abolition of fixed commissions. When the US Government made similar changes 20 years ago, commission levels fell by between 70 and 80 per cent.

"There have been a lot of sceptics about deregulation. Some people describe Big Bang as more of a 'Little Bang': they don't believe it will happen." In reality, says Mr Chudler, deregulation has already begun. Brokers do discount commissions, although it tends to be institutional clients who benefit. "Those who need it most — private clients — aren't getting the discounts."

Foreign firms, such as Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley, both of America, have already made considerable inroads into the Japanese market, mainly through the liberalisation of asset management, but also in securities trading. Mr Chudler points out that American and European houses now control more than 50 per cent of the Japanese equities traded in Tokyo.

The real stumbling block is the retail market, the bedrock of securities firms like Nomura. "Everyone quotes this mouth-watering figure of Y1,200 trillion in personal savings. US banks think: if I could just get 1 per cent of that market, it's big business," says Mr Chudler.

Yet while the Japanese public save far more of their earnings than their American or European counterparts, they are notoriously conservative in where they invest their money. It is far from clear whether the collapse of Yamaichi and the string of scandals in the industry are sufficient for smaller savers to shift their allegiance.

Mr Chudler believes the only realistic route to this market for foreign banks is through partnership with existing Japanese banks and brokers, such as the recent deal struck by Invesco to market its mutual funds through the branch network of the Long-Term Credit Bank. One advantage of the current turmoil in Japan is that foreign banks can exploit the weakness of native investment firms to attain far more favourable terms.

Ironically, in the months leading up to its demise, Yamaichi had been touting the idea of such a partnership around the US investment banks, including Merrill Lynch, according to Mr Chudler. But quite wisely, no one was willing to take on Yamaichi: the firm's "baggage" had become so well-known.

When financial woes ebb and flow

Fraser Nelson examines the relationship between investment and the economies of Japan and Britain

Britain has always been the favourite European shopping ground for Japanese investment houses and manufacturers. Their economy seemed to be in perfect harmony with ours: we slumped in 1973 when their economy was slipping into top gear. We proved a touch expensive in the mid-1980s boom, but obligingly slipped back with a property slump as their economy surged ahead. Almost every time Britain has been in the doldrums, Japanese benefactors have been there to shop till they drop.

It began with Toshio Arata, a 50-year-old business tycoon, who took a shine to the North East of England. He opened a plant for his NSK ball bearing manufacturer in 1973 and persuaded many of his fellow manufacturers to join him. Five years later, Nissan opened its first car plant in the North East, kick-starting a relationship which in the early 1990s saw £20 billion of investment come to our shores each year.

The electronics boys were next to land. The friendly, and cheap, labour force saw Scotland highly favoured by the likes of NEC which in 1981 set up a semiconductor plant in the new town of Livingston.

They liked it so much, they bought the companies. In 1984 Fujitsu bought ICL, the last British computer manufacturer. Soon afterwards Dai-Ichi Kanyo had become the world's largest bank. By the late 1980s, the Tokyo market had outstripped Wall Street in value.

But their main penchant was for star properties; Japanese developers snapped up Bracken House, the former head office of the *Financial Times*, having bid £144 million — some £80 million more than the next best offer. Mitsubishi bought Paternoster Square next to St Paul's Cathedral and after years of stagnation put in plans for its redevelopment last year.

Investments were not restricted to property. In 1987, an unnamed Japanese insurer staggered staff at Christie's by paying £26.1 million for Van Gogh's *Sunflowers* — a painting now thought to be a fake. And Jusco, the Japanese department store group, must wonder how Sir Bernard Ashley persuaded it to buy 15 per cent of Laura Ashley. The stake is worth less than a quarter of the original cost.

Japan's financial woes have not halted overseas investment entirely. Two years ago, Nomura snapped up Angel Trains for an undisclosed sum and is now floating it on the market for up to £300 million. The same company overtook Bass and Allied Domecq to become Britain's largest pub owner in September, paying GrandMet £1.2 billion for 5,400 pubs.

After their own markets collapsed, the Japanese banks have been slowly slipping down mergers and acquisitions league tables as they concentrate on their own worries. With Japan in the doldrums — its property prices are a fifth of what they were seven years ago — it is the turn of UK retailers like Marks & Spencer to eye the Japanese market with envious eyes.

MARKETING

Forget research, let's just have a great idea

Is marketing becoming a slave to the scientific methods of today's business environment? Has the industry surrendered the unpredictable qualities of flair and creativity for the certainties of science and modern technology?

For today's marketing director, who must constantly produce measurable returns on their marketing investment, the answer can only be yes. Yet, a survey out this week by Taylor Nelson AGB found that 59 per cent of 105 marketers interviewed believed that it is more of an art than a science.

But marketers take heart. A campaign to liberate marketing directors from the shackles of scientific research is gaining support in the boardrooms of some of the UK's biggest companies.

Only last week the chief executives of a number of firms called for a return to marketing as an art form.

George Bull, chairman of Grand Metropolitan and a one-time marketing director himself, issued a stark warning at a Marketing Society conference on the subject.

Bull argues that the advanced technology which lies at the fingertips of today's marketers is in danger of becoming a handicap rather than an asset to the success of marketing.

"Nowadays some marketing managers shelter behind their pile of numbers, use research as a crutch, avoid judgements entirely and forget the goal of all marketing is distinctiveness in the marketplace," he said. "But the same information processed on the same software produces only 'me-too' ideas."

His view is supported by John Dale, European vice-president of Pedigree Petfoods, part of the Mars Group, that great supporter of marketing.

While applauding the growth in sophisticated models that can measure everything from price elasticities to the strength of a brand in its product category, he cautions companies not to rely on these alone.

"In many instances they (the models) have successfully enabled us, if not, to take the risk out of the marketing decision then at least to minimise it. But they are not a substitute for what I would call real marketing.

"They are all limited usually to the evaluation of quite narrow parameters within the marketing mix. But they will not go out of the square." In short they won't do the job for you.

Even Colin Smith, Safeway's chief executive and a former finance director, chimed in to defend the art of advertising, claiming that his company's Harry and Molly ads are twice as effective as his competitors' and are worth the annual £28 million investment.

So what is an entire generation of marketing directors schooled in the science of measurement and effectiveness to make of such seditious talk? Over the past decade marketers have made the scientific gathering of detailed data on their customers a priority. They are likely to be armed to the teeth with the very latest in research and customer information.

That alone is no longer enough to guarantee success. As Theodore Levitt, the American marketing guru, once put it: "An organisation never really researches the consumer's wants. It only researches the kinds of things which they have already decided to offer."

Peter Dart, an ex-Unilever marketing director of 14 years and now chairman of Added Value Company, a marketing agency, said: "I think Western companies have lost the art of creativity. Growth is coming from areas such as cost-cutting, re-engineering management and fine-tuning the supply chain, but it's not coming from great ideas. There doesn't seem to be the time for marketers these days to actually do any marketing."

Where would 3M be without the inspiration of Art Fry, who dreamed up the idea of the Post-it Note after pages of his bible kept falling out and he happened upon a consignment of sub-standard glue.

"It's the sort of thing that you wouldn't have researched. They weren't responding to massive customer demand. It was just creating something out of nothing," said Dart.

Bull cites Bailey's Irish Cream, one of Ireland's biggest exports, as an example of how a successful marketing idea was born from a lunch. No research. No modules. No competitive analysis.

"In marketing inspiration is a matter of being the first in with a great idea that looks obvious once someone else has pointed it out," said Bull.

JULIAN LEE

What's in t'name

WHY do all these American chemicals companies feel that they have to have such "I stride the world with a mighty bound" sort of names? First it was Millennium, the group spun out of Hanson, and now there is Hercules, which most Yanks will know as a Disney film rather than the hero of Greek mythology.

The latest trial of Hercules, of course, is trying to persuade those obdurate Yorkshiremen at Allied Colloids to accept its £1 billion bid. The management of Colloids, of course, is far too down to earth to start giving the company a fancy name, sticking with its old title which sounds like a painful disease.

A City adviser tells me of visiting the group in Bradford not so long ago. "We don't get much of a profile in t'City," he was told. "How can we improve it?"

"Change your name," he answered and was promptly shown the door.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY BREAK GLASS
YAMAICHI
PUGH

IN A similar vein, the word in West Yorkshire wine bars (yes, they do have them) is that if you combine Colloids with Hercules you end up with something close to Haemorrhoids.

Mutual fiend

STILL within the Bradford metropolitan area, an attempt by the increasingly energetic chief executive, Christopher Rodriguez, to rally staff and increase morale at the Bradford & Bingley Building Society backfired yesterday. Rumours of a mass meeting organised in London, at which Rodriguez was giving a presidential-style address, reached a City hungry for news about the next demutualisation. Within hours, the Square Mile was rife with speculation that an announcement was imminent.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

B&B tried, not entirely successfully, to dampen the excitement. "We are 150 per cent committed to mutuality," a spokesman said. "This is a meeting to reassure staff about branch closures."

Well I never

NOW it is not in the nature of this column to criticise management consultants: their work has always been recognised. So it is with some excitement that I note the offer from Menswear and Womenswear Executives, a consultancy specialising in fashion management, of two free hours of advice. Brian Ross, the group's managing director, tells me that: "The decisions you make today can have a long-term effect on your business." With that sort of advice I am sure I am willing to double the fee payable for those two hours.

Singapore sling

TIMING is eveything, as they say in Tokyo (no coincidence that Yamaichi collapses ahead of a public holdiay when the markets are closed). And also, it seems, in Aberdeen.

I note that those fine chaps, Aberdeen Fund Managers, chose yesterday to announce that they are listing its shares in Singapore. Martin Gilbert, Aberdeen's chief executive, tells me proudly that the group will be the first asset management company listed in Singapore and the first sterling demoninated company. Gilbert's colleague, Hugh Young, adds: "Our listing is clear confidence of our belief in the long-term prospects for Asia in spite of the current turmoil."

Tell that to Nick Leeson.

Darling Budd

AND as the markets were bracing themselves on Sunday for the biggest securities business collapse in living memory, where were about 80 of the leading minds in the world of economics and finance?

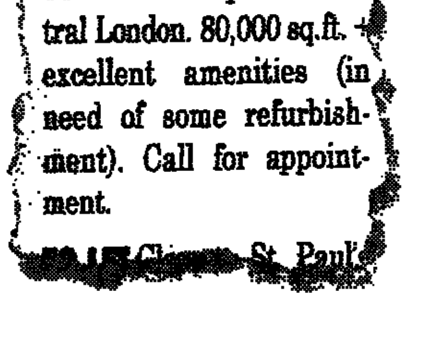
They were in Highgate, at the 60th birthday party of Sir Alan Budd, who has just retired as the Government's chief economic adviser, feeling the new Labour wind of change. "Last Friday was the first time since 1955 that I realised I did not have to work," he told the party, which included Gavyn Davies and Tim Congdon, from either ends of the economic spectrum. "I did work but I didn't need to."

Mervyn King, the new Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, led the tributes. "Without Alan the Treasury wouldn't have been such a success. Alan tells the truth which others prefer not to."

Ed Balls and Charlie Whelan, alas, were not in attendance.

JASON NISSÉ

Sir Alan: chose to work



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Losses in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
565	407½	Allied Domecq	534	- 16	4.6	13.7
626	385	Bulmer (HP)	417½		4.3	11.6
75½	40½	Burn Stewart	46½		9.1	16.2
1040	865	Glenmorangie A	950		1.8	22.6
638	425½	Grand Met	568½	- 12½	3.3	18.3
639	424	Guinness	563	- 12	3.4	15.5
380	280	Highland Dist	312½	- 1½	3.6	14.1
326	213	Matthew Clark	222½		13.5	6.6
109½	49½	Marston W	50		7.8	12.3
2009¼	1450	SA Breweries	1462½	- 16½	2.5	

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521½	918½	ABN-AMRO	1216	- 6¼	2.6	17.4
1050	710	Abbey Nat	939	- 21	3.6	15.5
770	532½	Alliance & Leic	707½	- 10½	2.9	18.6
563	388½	Allied Irish	513½	- 5	3.5	14.6
516¼	363½	Aus New Z	413	- 10	4.9	
4331¼	2975	Bank America†	3984¼	- 131¼		
548	291½	Bank Scotland†	499½	- 16½	2.2	13.8
1800	978½	Barclays	1435	- 24	2.9	13.6
874½	517½	Bk of Ireland	786½	- 5½	2.7	17.2
8568¼	6006½	Citicorp	7431¼	- 190¼		
1759½	1266½	Commerzbk	1650	- 9½	2.8	
862½	403½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	425	- 21½	0.9	
4597½	2709½	Deutsche Bk	3846¼	- 12½	1.6	
1300	759¼	Espirito Santo	1153½	- 16¼	3.1	
947	351	Fed Bank Y	361¼	- 25¼	1.1	70.1
2389½	1272½	HSBC	1485	- 82	3.9	12.0
2358½	1776	HSBC HK	1408	- 80	4.1	11.4
783	507	Halifax	675	- 35	2.7	22.7

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
225	162½	Car Group	185½		3.2	
172½	117½	Coverdale	169		3.5	7.8
100	61½	Charles Sidney	83½	- 1½	4.7	11.9
59½	42	Cook (DC)	42½	+ ½	7.1	5.7
121	90½	Dag Motors	100		10.0	6.5
134½	102½	Densmans El	103		3.4	9.4
400	217	Diploma	236½	- 5	8.4	
507½	387½	Electrocomponts†	427½	- ¼	2.4	23.0
226½	117½	Eurodis Elec	150	- 1	4.2	29.3
105	76½	European Mo	98½	- 1½	7.7	7.5
300	213	Evans Halshaw	290	- 2½	7.1	
55½	39½	Fife Indmar	47½		8.9	7.8
397½	275	Finelist Grp	331	- ½	2.9	14.7
34½	22½	Gardiner	22½		5.3	8.3
79½	57½	Glenchewton	67		2.9	10.9
110	82½	Gowrings	102½		3.8	17.0
15½	11	HR Owen	13¼	- ½	6.9	8.9
103	20½	Hamlet‡	22½			2.1
374	284½	Headlam†	320	- 1½	2.4	19.4
172	145	Holders Tech	156		5.2	12.7
240½	95	ISA Intl	85	- 1	4.4	6.6
308½	200	Inchcape†	212	+ 5	5.8	14.0
72	49½	Jacks (Wm)	54½		5.7	7.0
343½	214½	Jacob-Fb	319½	+ ½	2.3	17.5
460½	316½	Lex Service	427½	+ 10½	4.8	12.9
122	97	Lookers	109½	- ½	9.1	7.8
9	5½	Middlesex	6		2.1	14.7
41½	10½	Midstates†	20	+ 1	3.0	
472	180	Naxton	312½	- 6	3.4	10.6
223	114½	Northumbert	216		1.5	15.1
352½	285½	Parkcot	286		3.5	15.2
394½	254½	Pendragon	283½	- ½	4.5	12.5
223½	172½	Perry Gp†	181½		6.3	8.0
751	411	Premier Farnell†	416½	+ 3	3.8	15.4
144½	116	Quicks Group	121½		7.7	8.0
357	285	REA	287½		1.7	63.5
2½	1½	Reece	1½	...		50.2
38	9½	Robson	11½			
4	1½	Ross Gp	2½	...	...	...

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CHEMICALS

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DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
84	48½	INVESCO Blue	75½	- ½	13.9	8.9
198½	165	INVESCO Eng Inl	176½	- 1	0.9	73.3
60½	29	INVESCO Jap Dis	29½	- 1¼	...	...
90½	36½	INVESCO Korea	36½	- 2		
47	26½	INVESCO Tokyo	27¼	- 2		
120	82½	J Fry Euro U	116½		5.8	25.4
165½	95	JF Fledg Jap	97	- 4½		
117½	92½	Jupiter Ex Inc†	113½		8.7	11.2
16½	3½	Jupiter Ex IncWt	12½			
91	76½	Jupiter Grd Cap†	87	- 2	11.5	10.7
42	31	Jupiter Grd Pfd	40½	- ½	...	...

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
908	715½	EMAP	897½	- 9	1.9	20.7
705	450	EMI	490	- 15	3.6	35.5
1122¼	841½	Elsevier	963	+ 7	2.7	22.1
1840	1400	Euromoney Pb	1730		3.6	21.5
49	37	Fitch	47¼		1.7	11.7
803½	502½	Flextech	566½	+ 1½		
232½	187½	GGT Group	189½		4.1	
232½	167½	GWR Gp	175		2.0	28.5
392½	285½	Gearhouse Group†	374		2.4	14.3
37½	24½	Goodhead†	33½	- ½	1.5	17.3
345	254	HIT Entert	290		0.2	43.1

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1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
139½	120½	Jupiter Intl Gm	135½		3.6	
399½	293	Kleinwort Char	347	- 5½	2.1	51.7
118½	65½	Kleinwort E Mkt	86	- 2½		
174	153½	Kleinwort End	166½	- ½		
112½	74	Kleinwort H Inc	108½		12.8	10.7
368½	261	Kleinwort O'seas	325	- 6½	1.6	63.0
198½	161½	Kleinwort Smlr	177		2.5	47.3
387	145	Korea-Euro	147½	- ½	0.9	68.8
173½	98½	Latin American	117½	- 1		
1138	902½	Law Debenture	1024	- 15½	3.4	31.3
122	103½	Life Cif Opp	118½			

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
287½	207½	Haynes Pub	267½		4.9	11.9
22½	6½	Highbury Hse	8½			
230	180	Hodder H'line	206	..	4.1	14.1
285	231	Home Counts	240		3.0	23.3
419½	295	IBC	405½		3.0	14.2
29½	18½	Incepta	21	- ¼		12.6
407½	297½	Independent	322½		2.6	22.1
145	95	Interoeuropet	123½		4.8	9.1
229½	172½	Johnston Press	208½		1.6	19.2
45	25	Lopex	32½		3.3	8.7
327½	272½	Maiden‡	303½		2.3	18.6

LEISURE & HOTELS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
91½	30	AB Les	32		19.9	3.1
1243½	797	Airtours	1158½	+ 19½	1.8	21.0
59½	30	Ald Leisrl	34		3.7	11.1
67½	37½	Arcadian	59½	..	2.6	24.7
22½	9½	Arena Leis	20¼			

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
44½	8½	St Barbara	10½			
387½	188½	St Helena	195	+ 1½	10.6	
348¼	142½	Sons Gwalia	145½	- 1½	7.0	10.1
220½	117½	Sthern Pacific	118½	- 1½	...	...
1859½	865½	Southvaal	869½	..	11.9	8.4
4793½	2288½	Vaal Reefs	2368½	- 6¼	9.2	
418	191½	WMC	191½	- 9	3.6	16.2
37½	16	Wankie Col Z	27	..	4.0	9.6
57½	27½	Waler HaR	43½	...	...	...
460	405	Walls Blake	447	..	4.5	15.7

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No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	BWD	Oth Fin	
2	Albion	Textiles	
3	Slough Est	Property	
4	Amvescap	Oth Fin	
5	Williams	Sup Serv	
6	Cobham	Engin'ing	
7	Capital Inds	Print Pap	
8	Hazlwood Fds	Food Man	
9	Croda	Chemicals	
10	Chanl Hldgs	Electronic	
11	Adam & Hrvy	Distrib's	
12	Thistle Hotels	Leisure	
13	Inchcape	Distrib's	
14	Fairey Group	Electronic	
15	National Grid	Elec'ty	
16	News Corp	Media	
17	Clyde Blowers	Engin'ing	
18	GKN	Eng. Veh	
19	Br Vita	Chemicals	
20	Orange	Telecomms	
21	Gr Portland	Property	
22	RJB	Mining	
23	Liberty Intl	Oth Fin	
24	ORB	Property	
25	VTR	Media	
26	FS Dev	Mining	
27	Midstates	Distrib's	
28	FBD IE	Insurance	
29	Eurotherm	Electronic	
30	Hammerson	Property	
31	Rank Grp	Leisure	
32	Wassall	Div Inds	
33	Hays	Sup Serv	
34	Devro	Food Man	
35	Capital Radio	Media	
36	Merchant Rtl	Ret Gen	
37	Premier Frnl	Distrib's	
38	Lambert	Textiles	
39	Hyder	Water	
40	AG Holdings	Print Pap	
41	Serna Gp	Sup Serv	
42	David Brown	Engin'ing	
43	Monarch	Mining	
44	Burmah Castl	Oil & Gas	

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Portfolio

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Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

Weekly accumulator total

There were no winners yesterday, today's prize is £2,000.

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
67½	48½	Jerome (S)	49	- 1½	8.0	11.9
380	293	Jones Stroud	350		3.9	16.7
200	110	Lambert	200	+ 5	5.0	13.4
195	116	Lamont†	140	- 1½	11.4	11.6
173	105	Leeds	111½		7.6	8.3
38½	21½	Leslie Wise Gp	24	..	11.7	18.4
77	47	Lyles (S)†	73		3.8	12.1

South Korean market slumps to ten-year low

By George Sivell

SOUTH KOREA'S stock market plunged to a ten-year low as the country's bond markets tumbled, the currency fell and interest rates rose in response to the bailout package by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The sharp falls raised fears in Britain that South Korean corporations' expansion plans would be curtailed. Six South Korean projects have created or safeguarded 9,138 jobs, including LG's massive South Wales project and expansion by Samsung.

The market mayhem formed an unpromising backdrop to the first day of talks between South Korean Government officials and delegates from the IMF over the terms of a $20 billion (£12 billion) rescue package. Markets were nervous in spite of a pledge by Korea's central bank to put $6.6 billion into the money markets.

Three-year corporate bonds fell to a five-year low, yielding 16.05 per cent, against 14.5 per cent on Friday, and overnight interest rates soared to a one-year high of 15.50 per cent, against Friday's 14.87 per cent. The debt market barely operated, however, because there were no buyers.

The Korean stock exchange's composite stock index fell a record 7.17 per cent, or 34.79 points, to 450.64, the lowest seen since July 9, 1987, when it stood at 441.02. The South Korean won, the rapid decline of which in recent weeks was one of the main reasons that Seoul called in the IMF, closed at 1085.0 to the dollar, a weakening from Friday's 1056.0. The won fell 6 per cent last week. It is now 20 per cent lower than at the start of the year.

One analyst said: "People think the IMF package will lead to rises in interest rates, cuts in fiscal spending, more corporate collapses and lower economic growth."

Analysts said the IMF was most likely to ask for tighter monetary controls and cuts in fiscal spending to tame inflation, but at the expense of interest rates that would hit construction firms reliant on borrowings.

A government agency set up to buy the mounting bad loans of financial institutions opened for business yesterday, but it, too, failed to restore confidence.

South Korea's financial crisis has been caused by a string of corporate failures that have put enormous strain on the banking system. Foreign lenders have been refusing to roll over short-term loans amid growing concern about the creditworthiness of Korean banks. More than two thirds of the country's $110 billion external debt as of March was due in a year or less. One of the first IMF moves was to ask for details of the bad debt problems at Korean banks, estimated to total $26 billion.

South Korea's Finance Ministry had earlier ordered 12 merchant banks to liquidate their foreign-exchange assets or face business suspension. Many of the country's 30 merchant banks, unable to borrow dollars from domestic and foreign lenders, went into the foreign exchange market in recent weeks, fuelling a currency crisis.

President Kim Young Sam has told the public to expect a painful period of lower growth, massive restructuring and higher unemployment before the economy emerges stronger.

GB delivers £2m maiden profit at half time

By Fraser Nelson

GB RAILWAYS, which runs the InterCity services from London to Liverpool and Norwich, made a £2.1 million profit at half-time in spite of seeing its punctuality record deteriorate 43 per cent.

The company, which runs seven services under the Anglia franchise, turned in its maiden profit after a £18 million subsidy, topped up with a £151,000 bonus payment from the franchising director. Its overall service, which was among the ten best in Britain before privatisation, is now ranked the fourth-worst in terms of late trains.

But it has managed to avoid the penalty triggers set in place by the franchising director and has not suffered any penalty for the late trains.

During the six months to September 30, passengers were kept waiting more than ten minutes for 115 trains each week. That compares with a lateness rate of 74 trains a week for the corresponding period last year, when the network was managed by British Rail.

Max Steinkopf, chief executive, said: "We've had a number of problems which had come through at the same time. Railtrack has had some maintenence problems, which have affected our service, and the other day we had to cancel a train when a pheasant flew into its windscreen. In the long term, we aim to get the service back to where it was."

A spokesman for Opraf said that the company had not come close to being penalised for its late trains, and that the £151,000 payment had been an extra in appreciation of "good performance on the local services".

Anglia has promised to double the frequency of the London to Norwich service, but has been given three years in which to do so.

It intends to lease newer trains in the next 12 months and has agreed to pay Railtrack more rent for two stations in return for maintenance work.

It spent £400,000 on winning the Anglia Franchise and set aside £300,000 for a profit-sharing scheme and £100,000 for the directors' own phantom share scheme. This left earnings of 15.7p a share.

The company said that it would start splitting its profits with shareholders in the full year, with an expected 5p dividend costing £437,000.

The five directors, who have a shareholding worth £3.9 million, will receive £102,000 of this.

Its shares, which joined the Alernative Investment Market at 100p last year, rose 17p to 189½p yesterday.

Sterling cuts into Ransomes

By Adam Jones

PROFITS at Ransomes, the lawnmower maker being bought by Textron of the US, were cut down by the strength of the pound and weak Franco-German markets.

Ransomes is the last internationally dominant lawnmower company in UK ownership, supplying many of the world's most prestigious golf courses. In the year to September 30, profits were £10.5 million, down from £12.8 million in 1996. Operating profits fell £3.2 million to £16.9 million. Ransomes said that the strong pound was responsible for £1.2 million of this fall.

Demand for its Ipswich-made commercial mowers was hit, as expected, by the purchasing reluctance of European local authorities, particularly in France and Germany, although sales and orders improved in the second half of the year. John Clement, chairman, said continuing product development in this division was another cause for optimism.

The consumer division saw sales fall £8.9 million to £32.2 million, prompting an operating loss of £300,000, compared with a £100,000 profit last year.

ANDRE CAMARA

Tom How, chief executive of Majestic, reported a doubling of pre-tax profits to £1 million for the six months to September 29. Earnings at the wine warehouse chain grew from 2.83p to 5.55p out of which an interim dividend of 1.6p will be paid on January 9

David Brown acquisition

By Adam Jones

DAVID BROWN, the engineering group, is buying Union Pump Company, a supplier of pumps to the American oil and petrochemical sector, for $64 million (£38 million) in cash.

David Brown has agreed loan facilities of $150 million with Bankers Trust to fund the purchase. The surplus will cover Union's $4.3 million net debt, a refinancing, working capital and money for future growth.

The purchase is expected to have been completed by mid-December.

David Brown said that the deal "moves the group an important step closer to achieving its global aspirations", giving it vital US exposure.

Pumps form the smallest of its three divisions but has the highest operating profit margins, about 12 per cent last year and 13.5 per cent in the first half of this year.

Union Pump made a pre-tax profit of $1.2 million in 1996. In the eight months to August 29 profits were increased to $4 million as management changes began to have an effect.

David Brown shares closed 4p higher at 211½p yesterday.

Utility and TUC agree power and gas deal

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

SCOTTISHPOWER yesterday added seven million union members to its list of potential customers in a deal with the Trades Union Congress's energy dealing operation. The partnership is the biggest so far struck between energy companies and businesses with large customer bases.

The utility is to supply gas and electricity to Union Energy in a five-year exclusive deal. Union Energy plans to sell power to members at discounted rates.

The agreement boosts ScottishPower's ambitions for the developing market in household energy.

The company, which has two electricity businesses, a water company and gas customers, already serves about one in four utility customers. It also has a joint initiative with the AA to sell energy to a possible six million people.

Union Energy, which met with some union opposition from within the Trades Union Congress, will start selling gas in January. It will move into the electricity market as that starts opening in selected areas next April.

John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, said: "This is a major step forward for the TUC. Not only will members benefit directly from the lower cost energy, but the more who join, the more influence unions and their members will have in the industry. ScottishPower is a well-regarded employer with a good track record."

Ian Robinson, chief executive of ScottishPower, said: "Partnerships such as this will be hugely influential in helping ScottishPower towards its goal of offering a package of electricity and gas to customers across the UK."

The formation of Union Energy had been condemned by Unison, the country's biggest union, and others which argued that the TUC was wrong to get involved.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BBA takes stake in Hoechst division

BBA, the engineering group, has bought a 15 per cent stake in AQF Technologies for $7 million (£4 million) in a deal that may result in it acquiring the whole of AQF for up to $100 million. BBA said that of the $7 million, $2 million is payable immediately and the balance over the next two years. AQF was recently formed from Hoechst AG's air quality filtration division and Hoechst will initially retain an 85 per cent stake. BBA may acquire the remaining 85 per cent by the end of the first quarter of 2004 for an estimated $74.5 million.

If current forecasts are exceeded, the total consideration payable by BBA will not exceed $100 million and will be satisfied in cash out of BBA's existing resources. BBA will contribute to the management of the company and will have two out of five seats on the board, increasing once BBA has a majority shareholding in the year 2000. AQF is based in Charlotte, North Carolina, and had net assets at October 31 of $1.9 million. BBA shares fell 6½p to 364p.

Goodhead disposal

GOODHEAD GROUP has sold Southwestern Ontario Publishing & Printing (SWOPP) to Annex Publishing & Printing Inc for £2.3 million. The principal activities of Southwestern Ontario are publishing and printing local newspapers in southwestern Ontario, Canada. In the year to December 31, 1996, SWOPP achieved turnover of C$12.49 million (£5.2 million) and earned a pre-tax profit of C$378,000. Net assets at that date were C$3.818 million.

Pillar in joint venture

PILLAR PROPERTY, the property investment and development group, said it had formed a joint venture with Haslemere Estates, which acts by power of attorney for Rodamco UK. The 50-50 joint venture will develop a 40-acre site at Capability Green Business Park, Luton, Bedfordshire, which will comprise 630,000 sq ft of office and related buildings. It is planned to build the park over the next five to six years on a pre-let and pre-sold basis.

Courtaulds Textiles pact

COURTAULDS TEXTILES has agreed a 50/50 joint venture with Collins & Aikman, a leading American manufacturer of car interiors. The new company will be called Collins & Aikman Automotive Fabrics. Courtaulds said that it would transfer into the venture all of the automotive fabric design, technological and manufacturing resources that currently trade as CTAP in Manchester and Carlisle. This business had net assets of £5.4 million at December 31, 1996.

Senior to buy Metal Fab

SENIOR ENGINEERING has agreed to acquire Metal Fab Machine, based in Florida, for about $19 million (£11 million) from Flowserve Corporation. Senior said the exact consideration will depend upon the net asset value at closing, which, it is anticipated, will be approximately $7 million. The acquisition will be financed from the group's existing borrowing facilities and is conditional on certain regulatory approvals. Completion is expected to be within two months.

Silvermines agreement

SILVERMINES, the electronics and electrical group, has agreed terms in its bid for Active Imaging, the digital imaging group, which offers 17 Silvermines shares for every 92 Active Imaging shares. Clem Jansen, group managing director of Silvermines, said: "We have been actively pursuing the acquisition of digital technology over the last 18 months for application in our CCTV and building automation division to provide us with a technological lead in these sectors."

Cammell Laird purchase

CAMMELL LAIRD is to purchase DG Electrical for £1 million, to be satisfied with £500,000 in cash and by the issue of 329,164 ordinary shares. In the year to February 28, DG Electrical made an audited pre-tax profit of £398,000 on turnover of £2.9 million. Unaudited results for the seven months to September 30 show a pre-tax profit £547,000 on sales of £2.9 million. Net assets on acquisition are warranted at £289,000 after a pre-sale dividend to the vendor.

Improved results for Benfield & Rea

By Marianne Curphey

SHARES in Benfield & Rea, the Lloyd's investment trust vehicle launched two years ago, remained unchanged at 107½p yesterday after the company announced a rise in half-year pre-tax profits from £11.4 million to £14.2 million.

The trust, BRIT, was formed from the Benfield Group, run by the late Matthew Harding, the millionaire backer of Chelsea Football Club, and Rea Brothers, the merchant bank.

Its first major move was a successful bid for HCG, a Lloyd's investment trust. It was set up to focus on specialist opportunities in the insurance sector, including the Lloyd's market.

John Coldman, chairman of Benfield & Rea, said: "We continue to focus on reshaping BRIT's portfolio of Lloyd's trusts and encouraging management towards achieving shareholder value. Despite a background of soft underwriting conditions there continues to be interest from the company market in managing agency investment at Lloyd's."

The company proposes to pay an interim dividend of 3p, against 0.6p, for the six months to September 30. Shareholders' funds stood at £187 million at the end of the half year.

RM reshuffle brings new role for Fischer

By Chris Ayres

MIKE FISCHER, founder and chief executive of RM, the educational software and systems supplier, is to give up his position and work only one day a week for the company.

He will be replaced by Richard Girling, previously managing director and a director for ten years. Mr Fischer, whose personal holdings in RM total almost £22 million, will become president and a non-executive director. He will still have a strategic influence over the company.

The boardroom shake-up comes as the market for schools software systems is expected to double in size to about £300 million over the next two years. Much excitement has surrounded the sector since the Government's decision to invest £100 million in IT for schools.

RM reported an 18 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the year to September 30, to £8 million (£6.8 million) on turnover of £110.2 million (£99 million). Earnings rose to 30.8p (25.1p). A total dividend of 9.5p (8p) will be paid on February 3. It said first-half results would be lower than last year, as schools waited for government funding.

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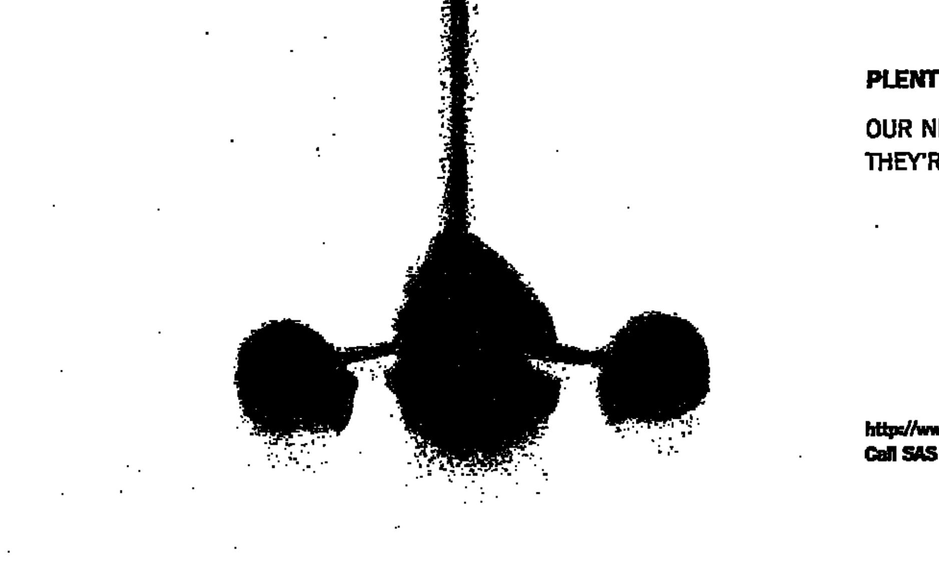

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0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7988				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	138.29	147.35†	- 0.60	
Do NAV to Dec 19	138.83	138.83		
UK Equity Safeguard	109.40	115.92	0.70	2.4
Do NAV to Sep 19	106.93	106.93		
Cash	953.40	958.17†		5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	353.70	376.00‡	- 2.00	1.74
UK Small Cos	78.71	84.17†		0.49
FTSE 250 Index	96.43	103.12	+ 0.70	2.11
Govett UK Index	2185.87	2307.56†	-36.00	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	80.77	83.44	+ 0.05	
Monthly Inc	41.21	44.03†		6.70
International Funds				
American Gen	287.10	303.80†	- 2.30	
American Strat	253.95	271.60	- 1.50	
JG US Index	2244.76	2365.21†		4.00
European Gen	318.20	336.70	- 0.20	
European Strat	134.90	144.27	- 0.70	
Japan Gen	109.00	115.30†	- 1.50	
Asia Pacific	67.95	72.31†	- 0.06	
Pacific Strat	107.52	114.98	- 1.60	
Greater China	202.21	216.27	- 4.90	
Latin America	101.27	108.30	+ 3.30	
Intl Growth	162.00	173.25	- 0.40	
Balanced Exempt	145.80	151.00		
Global Strategy	47.68	50.99	- 0.17	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	806.80	858.20	- 4.50	2.65
General Inc	657.60	699.50	- 3.60	2.65
UK Growth Acc	558.30	593.90	- 3.00	2.52
UK Growth Inc	352.90	375.40	- 1.90	2.52
Higher Inc Acc #	1025.00	1090.00	- 3.00	4.66
Higher Inc Inc #	526.30	559.80	- 1.80	4.66
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	229.30	242.30	+ 0.60	5.69
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	95.51	100.90	+ 0.30	5.69
Nth America	417.80	444.50	- 1.20	
Europe	425.40	452.50	- 4.70	0.62
Bnf Exempt	111.00	118.00	- 0.70	2.36
Bnf Fndmtls Acc	141.30	150.30	- 0.50	4.63
Bnf Fndmtls Inc	90.64	96.42	- 0.33	4.63
Global Opps	107.30	114.00	- 0.60	0.71
Balanced Acc	70.75	75.26	- 0.32	2.54
Balanced Inc	64.72	68.85	- 0.30	2.54
Japan Acc	34.24	36.42	- 0.46	
Pac Basin Acc	277.00	294.60	- 1.40	1.62
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	141.80	150.40	+ 0.20	6.06
High Inc Equity	213.00	227.80†	- 1.70	4.42
Worldwide Bond	266.00	282.70†	+ 0.90	3.50
American Growth	507.40	541.60	+ 0.60	0.31
Asian Pacific	227.40	243.30	- 2.50	0.57
Assets & Earnings	328.90	351.80†	- 2.60	2.66
Euro Capital Acc	232.30	248.40	- 2.00	0.80
Extra Inc	42.58	45.30†	- 0.22	9.18
General	305.60	325.10	- 2.10	3.02
Global Opps	74.14	78.87	0.03	0.41
Japan	77.17	82.53	- 0.56	
Managed Inc	50.92	54.17†	- 0.21	4.15
Mastertrust	178.90	191.30	- 0.80	1.16
US Emerging Cos	212.80	227.60	- 0.40	
Ethical	89.20	94.89	- 0.06	1.93
International	136.90	145.60	- 0.40	0.60
Dividend & Growth	78.99	84.03	- 0.55	4.15
Global Gwth & Sec	77.66	82.89	+ 0.12	2.44
Latin America	75.28	80.09	+ 2.16	0.84
Capital Reserve	152.60	152.60		4.58
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
H&P UK Growth	107.80	114.60		2.05

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	871.86	886.04		3.93
Investment Acc	4189.94	4253.38		
Fixed Int Inc	132.53	133.07		8.72
Fixed Int Acc	263.78	264.34		
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8880				
Beckman Intl	94.61	98.49‡		11.25
Bock Bio-Tech	39.31	42.48		
Acorn Ethical Tst	212.05	222.67		0.41
City Fin Assets	85.01	89.27†	+ 0.09	2.95
City Fin Intl	83.63	87.82†		0.06
Friars Hse Cap	355.57	378.27	+ 0.54	1.65
Beckley Wld Grth	138.09	146.37		
Shaw Utilities	80.42	82.15†	- 0.09	4.36
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	50.03	53.08	+ 0.22	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	96.91	103.10	- 0.39	
Dragon Growth	46.92	50.18	+ 0.29	1.53
Equity High Inc	110.32	118.74	- 0.49	3.16
-do- Accum	165.62	175.25	- 0.76	3.16
Extra Income Inc	28.53	30.03	+ 0.04	6.30
Extra Income Acc	33.17	34.90	+ 0.03	6.30
European Gwth	77.73	82.25	- 0.98	0.13
Evergreen	34.14	36.51	- 0.22	
General Equity	127.88	134.97	- 0.70	2.32
Japan Growth	32.89	35.10	- 0.56	
Pedigree Gwth	76.93	81.40	- 0.54	1.58
Prd Sm Cos Inc	41.01	43.40†	- 0.08	1.42
-do- Accum	44.16	46.73	- 0.09	1.42
Retirement Inc #	32.94	35.04	- 0.12	5.04
Special Sits	52.85	56.83	- 0.41	2.57
UK & Overseas	64.70	68.48	- 0.68	0.53
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	79.35	82.65	- 0.34	3.62
Capital	96.63	100.65	- 0.77	1.98
High Income	55.59	57.90†	+ 0.05	6.51
Top 50	69.75	72.65	- 0.42	2.01
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Monthly Inc Plus	57.57	59.97	+ 0.02	7.47
Preference Share	55.06	57.38†	+ 0.07	6.79
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	160.25	166.94†	- 0.53	5.37
Managed Fund	82.03	85.46†	- 0.38	2.65
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	51.71	53.87	- 0.28	1.58
-do- Accum	61.84	64.42	- 0.35	1.58
UK & General	116.67	121.54†	- 2.49	2.31
-do- Accum	156.35	162.88†	- 3.34	2.31
UK Growth	233.43	243.18	+ 1.70	1.62
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	254.60	265.24	- 2.62	0.51
Far Eastern Gth	96.29	100.31	- 0.90	0.28
Global Bond	71.01	73.98†	- 0.15	6.95
Japan Growth	87.63	91.29	- 1.36	
North Amer Gth	298.48	310.95	+ 0.09	
Oriental Growth	57.51	59.91	- 0.25	0.82
Worldwide Growth	77.65	80.89	- 0.48	0.32
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.18	92.16†	+ 0.04	6.38
Homestead Fund	96.52	102.89	- 0.87	2.10
Quilter Fund	167.86	178.57	- 1.45	1.77

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-do- Accum	753.80	801.90	- 8.50	3.99
Financial	224.80	239.20†	- 0.80	0.94
-do- Accum	240.90	256.30†	- 0.80	0.94
Gilt Inst	63.29	65.28†	+ 0.15	7.04
-do- Accum	104.20	107.50†	+ 0.30	7.04
Health Fund Inc	282.30	300.30†	- 1.80	
-do- Accum	282.30	300.30†	- 1.80	
Income & Growth	259.30	275.90†	- 2.00	3.54
-do- Accum	431.80	459.40†	- 3.40	3.54
Intl Growth	443.30	472.00†	- 3.00	
-do- Accum	492.30	524.20†	- 3.20	
Japan & Gen	124.80	132.50	- 2.00	
-do- Accum	126.70	133.80	- 2.00	
Monthly Inc #	231.10	245.90†	- 0.90	3.98
-do- Accum #	240.40	255.70†	- 1.00	3.98
Managed Port Inc	130.30	137.20	- 0.80	1.31
-do- Accum	143.30	150.80	- 0.80	1.31
Quarterly Income #	62.23	66.59†	- 0.37	5.17
-do- Accum #	75.41	80.70†	- 0.45	5.17
Recovery	304.90	326.10	- 2.80	
-do- Accum	359.90	384.90	- 3.30	
UK Growth	74.18	78.92	- 0.35	1.79
-do- Accum	81.98	87.21	- 0.38	1.79
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01722 715635 Enq 01722 715634				
FP American	78.35	83.29	+ 0.38	
FP Am Smlr Cos	221.80	236.50	+ 0.40	
FP Asian Growth	172.80	184.30	+ 1.30	
FP Australian	407.60	434.70	- 3.40	
FP Equity Dist	536.80	572.50	- 4.00	2.01
-do- Accum	1225.00	1306.00	- 9.00	2.01
FP Euro Gth	357.80	381.60	- 2.60	
-do- Accum	392.00	418.10	- 2.80	
FP Intl Bond	56.57	59.86	- 0.09	3.97
FP Intl Gth Dist	41.58	44.35†	- 0.19	0.05
-do- Accum	61.28	65.38	- 0.28	0.05
FP Pac Basin Acc	169.30	180.50†	- 0.98	0.20
FP Income #	69.96	74.62	- 0.45	4.42
-do- Accum #	253.80	270.70	- 1.60	4.42
FP Jap Smllr Cos	169.30	180.50	- 2.40	
FP Monthly Dist #	84.62	90.26†	- 0.32	4.84
FP Stlg Deposit	100.80	100.80†	+ 0.10	6.16
FP Tokyo	65.69	70.06	- 0.72	
FP UK Focus	50.85	54.02†	- 0.46	1.51
FP UK Growth	239.50	255.40	- 1.90	1.57
-do- Accum	493.00	525.80	- 4.10	1.57
Stewardship Dist	476.30	508.00†	- 0.60	1.39
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-do- Accum #	113.50	121.00	- 0.10	5.22
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Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	134.00	142.50	+ 1.30	3.68
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Equity Dist @	705.30	705.30	- 4.50	2.07
-do- Accum @	1491.00	1491.00	-10.60	2.07
Equity Income #	122.10	122.10	- 0.30	4.47
UK Tactical Allocn @	81.16	87.16	- 0.54	5.29
European @	171.70	171.70	- 2.10	0.23
Far Eastern @	160.50	160.50	- 1.70	
Fixed Interest @	58.66	58.66	+ 0.12	7.33
Gilt @	97.10	97.10†	+ 0.27	6.05
Global Growth @	80.66	80.66	- 0.76	0.19
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Pacific Growth @	78.80	78.80	- 0.90	0.88
Pacific Index @	32.18	32.18†	- 0.15	3.11
UK Index @	91.69	91.69†	- 0.51	2.85
UK Recovery @	132.10	132.10†	- 0.70	1.57
UK Smaller Cos @	179.10	179.10	.	1.10
US Index @	109.60	109.60	.	0.77
European Index @	109.00	109.00	- 1.50	1.16
Japan Index @	26.69	26.69	- 0.39	
Worldwide @	107.70	107.70†	- 0.60	1.07
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 629				
Growth	66.72	71.35†	- 0.45	2.16
Income	79.93	85.43	- 0.34	3.53
Far East	31.94	34.16	- 0.13	
North American	161.10	171.60	- 0.80	

Richard Cork on the Paris show of works collected by Harry Havemeyer, the 19th-century Sugar King

A sweet tooth for Impressionists

While Sir Henry Tate lavished his fortune on dull, over-priced Royal Academicians, another sugar magnate was amassing a far more adventurous collection in New York. Henry Osborne Havemeyer, usually known as Harry or H.O., had inherited a flourishing refinery business. Nicknamed Sugar King, he might have been expected to fritter his wealth on millionaire's baubles. But Havemeyer had a remarkable eye for art. With his even more perceptive wife Louisine, he assembled one of the first great collections of Impressionist paintings. Mostly bequeathed to the Metropolitan Museum in 1929, they are now enjoying a triumphant Parisian homecoming in a loan exhibition at the Musée d'Orsay.

Although Havemeyer began by purchasing Japanese decorative arts, their emphasis on clear-cut simplification helped to prepare him for the challenge of Impressionism. After all, the boldness of Japanese colour prints was hugely admired by Monet, Van Gogh and their allies. Mary Cassatt, the outstanding American painter who knew Degas well, owed a considerable debt to Japan in her warm, economical studies of family life. When Louisine visited Paris in 1874, almost a decade before marrying Harry, she began a lifelong friendship with Cassatt.

It was an exhilarating time to discover contemporary French painting. The Impressionist revolution was at its peak, transforming the possibilities for Western art. But its exhibitions were often vilified, and Louisine acted with admirable daring when she acquired a Monet landscape and a ballet rehearsal scene by Degas in 1877. Her commitment to uncompromising modernity had begun, and at this stage she far outstripped her husband-to-be in her willingness to embrace the new spirit in art. He confined himself to Old Masters and the mild-mannered members of the Barbizon school. Even after their marriage in 1883, he persisted in buying paintings by Rembrandt and de Hooch, along with an electrifying El Greco view of Toledo under a thunderous sky. But Louisine soon ensured that his financial resources were channelled into supporting the avant-garde as well.

The Havemeyers were not alone in their appetite for innovation. Unlike the British, most of whom regarded Impressionism with outright contempt, the Americans gave an enthusiastic response to the first substantial New York exhibition of paintings by Manet, Renoir, Degas, Pissarro, Monet and Sisley. Organised by the French dealer Durand-Ruel in 1886, the show was acclaimed by press and public alike, and their open-minded delight compared well with the derision so often heaped on Impressionist shows by the Paris critics.

Hence the extraordinary richness of American museums' holdings in 19th-century French art at its finest. Several voracious collectors began buying at the Durand-Ruel exhibition, and they were able to acquire an abundance of major paintings which France now keenly regrets losing. The Havemeyers lent some of their choicest purchases to the New York show, where they bought Manet's delectable *Still Life with Salmon*. Posing for a full-length photograph in the late 1880s, they look like the epitome of smug bourgeois prosperity, plump and irreproachably respectable. But the Musée d'Orsay show testifies to their capacity for risk-taking. Room after room is emblazoned with the vitality of Impressionist painting at its zenith.

A group of Manets stands out. The Havemeyers amassed no fewer than 25 of his pictures, encompassing the exceptional variety of Manet's oeuvre. They range from the nonchalant virtuosity of an early *Young Man in a Majo Costume*, revealing the full extent of his involvement with Spanish art, to a later portrait of Georges Clemenceau, the French Prime Minister, in sketchy, sombre monochrome.

The Havemeyers seem to have been especially fond of Manet's maritime scenes. Sea forms a backdrop for the intimate study of his family at Arcachon, and then fills the foreground of a blustery, freely brushed painting of *The "Kearsage" at Boulogne*. But the most resplendent handling of water occurs in a view of blue-striped Venetian poles casting their reflections in the shimmering Grand Canal. And his large sailing picture, where the moustachioed man with a boater appears curiously detached from his female companion, allows sunlit sea and sky to merge in an idyllic expanse of blue.

One of the early Monets on view here, a fresh 1865 painting called *The Green Wave*, is astonishingly close to Manet's *Kearsage* canvas. But the Havemeyers did not stop there. They bought an enchanting, flower-filled canvas of the garden Monet savoured at his first Argenteuil house in 1872.

Their most stunning examples of his work date from the 1890s. At the beginning of the decade, a painting from the Poplars series proves just how stark the middle-aged Monet could be. The four trees ranged along the riverbank are reduced to their essential forms, and their reflections seem no less solid. It is a marvellously tough picture, as severe in elemental structure as anything Monet produced.

In this respect, the poplars painting could hardly offer a greater contrast to the canvas hanging beside it. For the 1899 view of Charing Cross Bridge is among the most evanescent of Monet's London series. Seen on a foggy day, when Big Ben vanishes in the haze, the bridge looks unexpectedly fragile. Smoke ascends, glittering with sunlit edges, from steam trains crossing the Thames. But the sailboat on the wind-rippled river below appears to belong to another, pre-industrial era as it moves through water incandescent with pink and white light.

Louisine Havemeyer's attachment to Cassatt, represented here by some luminous and wonderfully unaffected mother and child paintings, meant that Degas's work became a major presence in the Havemeyer collection. The exquisite virtuosity of his early ballet scene is magical enough. Around 20 years later, though, Degas returned to the subject in *Rose and Green Dancers*. Now the limbs have become as blurred as the broken texture of their costumes. Degas summarises rather than specifies the details of the backstage setting, and the sliced-off silhouette of a lurking, top-hatted male admirer is barely detectable in the shadows.

If Degas is a hero of the Havemeyers, they did not extend their largesse to all the Impressionists. Sisley is represented by a token landscape that fails to show this underrated artist at his best. As for Renoir, a painter so eagerly sought by other American collectors, he is nowhere to be seen. The Havemeyers bought only one of his paintings, a shameless chocolate-box woman who has been understandably excluded from the show.

Most of the Post-Impressionists found no place in the collection either. But the absence of Gauguin and Van Gogh did not mean that the Havemeyers rejected Cézanne. His room is full of vastly impressive images. Mont Saint-Victoire, seen from a distance with a noble viaduct extending to the side, is partially hidden by tall foreground pine-trees. A decade later, Cézanne closes on some boulders in a dimly lit wood. Flattened and yet still substantial, they help to explain why the Cubists regarded the master of Aix as their lodestar.

But a flower piece proves that severity in Cézanne could be matched by surprising tenderness and sensuality. Nor should his earlier work be regarded simply as a stumbling prelude to the sublime achievements of his old age. A still life executed around 1877 is one of the most satisfying works on display here. The mound of remarkably edible apples on the linen cloth, no less than the tilted cup and vase behind, are defined with all the authority of his later, more extravagantly revered canvases.

The Havemeyer collection must have amounted to an astounding spectacle when hung in their specially designed New York mansion. Embellished with Tiffany glass and a dramatic suspended staircase, the house should not have been demolished in 1930. But the paintings once displayed there have all been preserved, to glorify the moment when Americans discovered Impressionism and succumbed without a struggle.

- Collection Havemeyer *at the Musée d'Orsay, Paris (00331 40494814) until Jan 18*

Harry and Louisine Havemeyer were conspicuous collectors of Manet's work, buying 25 of his pictures and showing a special fondness for his maritime scenes, such as *En bâteau* (1874)

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A guide to the best CD recordings, presented in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

FAURE'S PIANO QUARTETS

Reviewed by Roger Nichols

Fauré's two piano quartets were first performed in Paris in the 1880s. Fauré had few contemporary works to use as models, so it is all the more astonishing that these two were successful right from the start.

Like much of Fauré's music, they demand an ear both for intricate detail and for overall structure. Jean-Philippe Collard, renowned as a performer of Fauré's solo piano music, is reluctant to retire into the background when the score demands, and often his *forte* playing comes over as hectoring. In contrast, the Ensemble Villa Musica takes a quieter, more intimate approach. While this is valid in short stretches, it leads to a crucial failure of energy in the sonata-form movements, as well as in the demonic scherzo of the Second Quartet.

Unfortunately, the recording by the Nash Ensemble suffers from inaccuracies in the last movements of both quartets: given the standard of their playing elsewhere, it is a great pity these passages were not retaken.

Of the seven pairings available for review, two stand out. In the Sony recording by Isaac Stern, Jaime Laredo, Yo-Yo Ma and Emanuel Ax the actual sound is often ravishing, with Stern not stinting on the *portamenti* which Fauré would have expected to hear. Occasionally, in the last movement of the First Quartet, Ax goes through the tone, and in the fleet-footed scherzo the pulse is not always absolutely secure. By and large, they are more persuasive in the high drama of the Second Quartet, and their performance of the scherzo is splendidly vicious. But they sometimes dawdle and I am not convinced by the opening bells.

But my choice is the 1985 recording by **Domus (Hyperion CDA 66166 £14.49)**. While alive to every nuance in the slower movements, they display a truly wonderful energy in the faster ones, showing the passionate side of Fauré which is too often ignored.

- *To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@thetimes.co.uk. Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Elgar's* The Dream of Gerontius

AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

☐ AS THE holiday season nears, many galleries seem to feel it is a good time to show off a little, by placing a spectacular array of goods in their shop window. It is difficult, though, to remember a more spectacular display than that currently on show at the two halves of the recently consummated Spink/Leger link-up. Though Spink has had its regular shows of painting, watercolours in particular, it is generally associated much more with objets d'art, notably jewellery, coins and medals, ceramics and oriental art of all sorts. Leger, on the other hand, has had a reputation for its classic British painting.

The two shows running in tandem at present suggest that not so much has changed. At the old Leger gallery in Bond Street there is a resplendent show of **British Paintings, Watercolours and Drawings** held by Spink and Leger, including naturally examples of the artists currently attracting attention because of anniversaries (the tricentenary of Hogarth's birth, the bicentenary of Joseph Wright of Derby's death) or notable museum shows (Sir Henry Raeburn, Francis Towne), as well as several Indian pieces by the Daniells and excellent orientalist works.

At Spink the accent is on versatility: **The Many Faces of Spink** has a handful of paintings by early 19th-century RAs such as Sir Thomas Lawrence and John Russell, but they are outshone by the ritual masks from Tibet, the set of sterling silver stirrup cups, the 5th-century Gandhara head of a Bodhisattva, the strangely sinister earthenware head from 5th/7th-century Japan, or the Elizabethan 5th-issue pound coin featuring the Queen's image in hammered gold.

Spink, 5 King Street, SW1 (0171-747 6808); Spink-Leger, 13 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 3538). Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm, until Dec 12

☐ IN ART, humour tends to be consigned to a special category, along with the cartoon and the book illustration. It is perfectly fine in its place, of course, but surely that place is not a serious gallery wall. Clearly the Crane Kalman Gallery does not think so, hence the present show, **Essence of Humour**. It is all in a good cause, a proportion of the proceeds being donated to Comic Relief, but the opportunity has been taken to look fairly and squarely at the role played by humour in the work of a wide range of 20th-century artists.

The element of shock and dislocation of normal responses which is Surrealism's trademark is quite likely to provoke laughter, if only nervous, and the work of the American boxmaker Joseph Cornell is generally calculated to produce at least a smile. The painters of the Neo-Expressionist Cobra group loved to cock a snook at convention, and a work like Karel Appel's *It looks Like a Cat* (as indeed it does, sort of) is definitely amusing. Calder, even at his weightiest, is always playful, and various aspects of British humour, camp and deadpan respectively, find a prominent place in the art of Edward Burra and L.S. Lowry. An early and whimsical Lichtenstein, *Le Château*, is a rarity, and it must be said that the professional humorists Steinberg and Grosz look completely at home in this company.

Crane Kalman Gallery, 178 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-584 7566). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-4pm, until Dec 6

☐ THE great age of British book illustration is normally supposed to have ended well before **Mike Wilks** started in the mid-Seventies. But Wilks, 50 this year, is a survivor of the Swinging Sixties, his intricate fantasies suggestive of *Monty Python* and *The Yellow Submarine* rather than Rackham or even Emmett. All the same, he has managed to produce a number of bestsellers, and apparently holds the curious title of WH Smith's most shoplifted author with *The Ultimate Alphabet* (1986). The originals of his illustrations are occasionally pen-and-ink or gouache on paper, but more frequently they prove to be fully fledged acrylic paintings on canvas or panel. The work will hardly be to everyone's taste, but there is no denying that Wilks knows exactly what effect he wants to achieve.

Gekoski Gallery, Pied Bull Yard, 15a Bloomsbury Square WC1 (0171-404 6676) Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, until Dec 5.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

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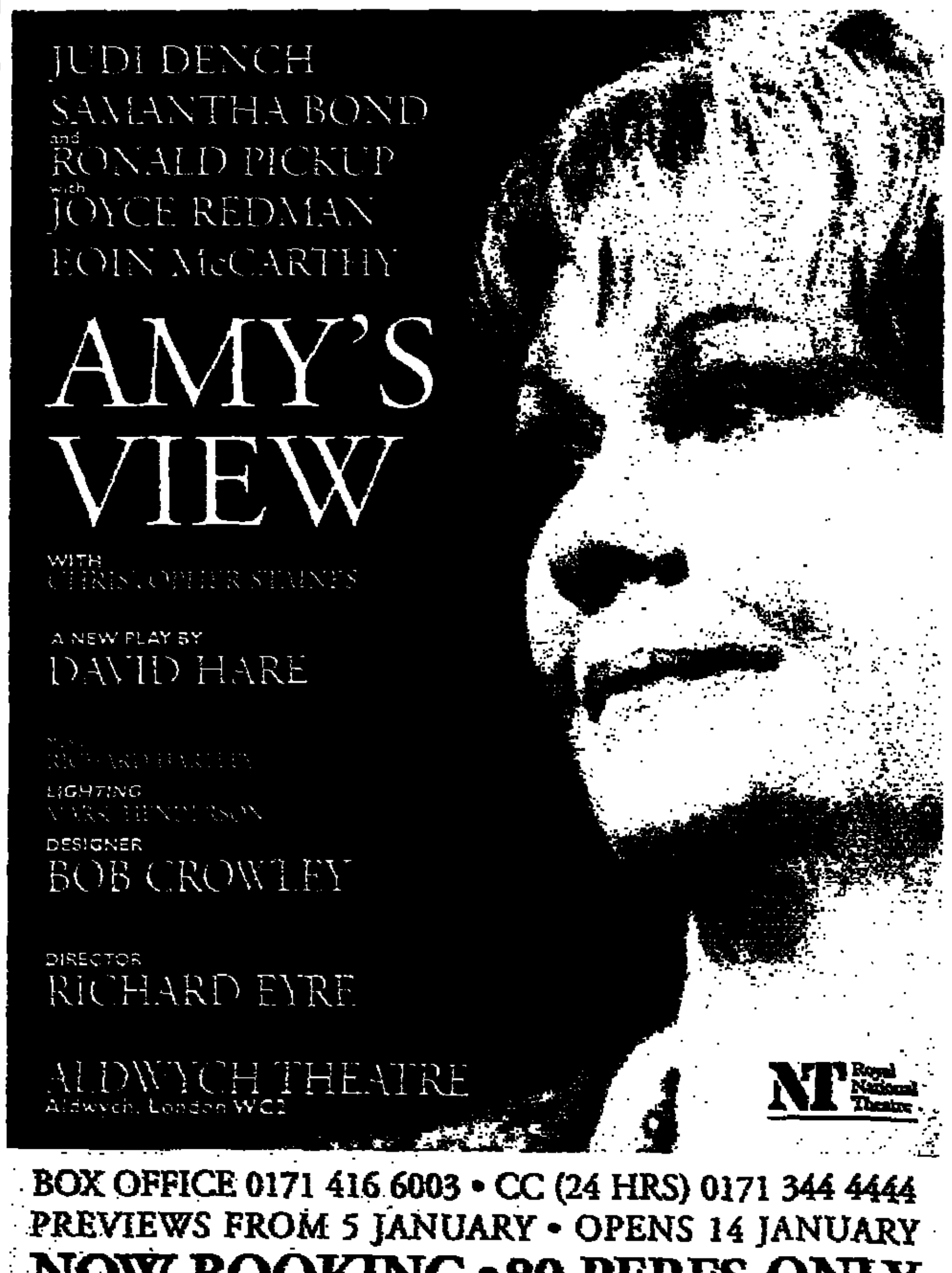

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BRIEFLY NOTED

■ MUSEUMS: Despite the Labour Government's apparently implacable commitment to keeping the Elgin Marbles as an integral part of the British Museum's collections, campaigners for the return of the Marbles to Greece are organising a "day of action" on December 5. There will be demonstrations outside the BM and the Department of Culture that day, and a "mass e-mailing" of the Government, the BM, the Labour Party and British embassies around the world is also being planned. Those wishing to protest, or curious to sample the arguments, should tune their computers to http//www.uk.digiserve.com/mentor/marbles/.

■ SCULPTURE: After two years of persistent Antipodean argument, Westminster council has agreed to allow Australia House in the Strand to be lit up by a giant "light sculpture and concrete poem". At 7.30pm on Thursday the façade above the grand entrance will be illuminated with a large circle of letters spelling the words HEAR THE ART — or, if read differently, HEART HEARTH EARTH. It is the work of the Australian conceptual artist Richard Tipping, who once claimed brief notoriety by wrapping a large ribboned bow round the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

■ MUSIC: Britain's top choirs have until January 9 to apply for the 1998 Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competition, the country's largest choral contest. Next year's competition has three categories: youth, mixed sex and single sex. There are no restrictions on style: gospel, barbershop, chamber and church choirs have prospered in past years. The semi-finals and finals (at the Buxton Opera House next November) will be shown on BBC TV. Details from the organisers on 0171-221 7883.

■ THEATRE: You don't have to wear Lycra shorts, but it might help. Opening at the Nuffield Theatre in Southampton tomorrow is a play called *Le Tour de France*, which (guess what?) is all about the Tour de France. A company of steel-thighed actors from the Théâtre des Deux Rives in Rouen will enact the dramas of the historic cycle-race over the years, harnessing "rolling road technology" so that they can cycle on stage without careering into the wings. They perform in French, but the theatre promises a free half-hour French lesson before each performance — and, if that proves inadequate to the task, surtitles.

■ FILM: The world's first piece of cricket film — of Prince Ranjitsinhji practising in the nets at Sydney exactly 100 years ago — will be shown at an Archive Cricket Evening staged by the British Film Institute at the National Film Theatre on December 9. Also to be shown during the evening will be newsreel footage of Denis Compton, the England cricketer and footballer who died earlier this year.

In Washington DC, Patrick Stewart's Moor has highlighted the black-white divide in American theatre. **Jeremy Kingston** reports

Skin-deep Othello misfires

Patrick Stewart's appearance — in both senses of the word — as a white Moor heading an all-black cast of Venetians focuses attention on a current crisis in the American theatre. The crisis is part sword of Damocles, part hornet's nest, and though attempts are made to pacify the nest, the buzzing stays loud and the thread is visibly fraying.

Even definitions of the situation are contested but, broadly speaking, the concern is how best to include black actors and black audiences in the predominantly white-run theatres supported by predominantly white-sourced private funding. The vehement arguments for and against any proposed solution create the buzzing; the alarm of the funders lest they be accused of elitism is the fraying thread.

A year ago August Wilson, the leading black American playwright, denounced colour-blind casting. To employ black actors in "white" roles was "to cast us in the role of mimics". Black actors should not even perform in plays written by whites. If an all-black cast played, he said, in *Death of a Salesman* this would "deny us our humanity".

Understandably, Wilson's extreme position finds little favour among black actors and directors; nor, for that matter, among white directors, whether in America or Britain, who readily cast black actors in "white" plays. Their reasons will be various: best available actor for the role; increasing opportunities available to black actors; funding dependent on doing the PC thing.

The PC factor is what has denied a generation of white actors the chance to play the Moor. Only the lofty position Stewart has reached through *Star Trek: The Next Generation* has made it possible for him, and then in what he calls this "photo-negative" production at Washington's Shakespeare Theatre. The director of this **Othello** is our own Jude Kelly, and the setting is contemporary, so that Stewart's Othello must be understood as a white mercenary engaged by a black republic. Mostly, the production doesn't work, though not only because photo-negativism presents trickier problems than colour-blindness.

The displays of love between Stewart and Patrice Johnson's Desdemona are credible and delightful. So long and rapturously do they embrace on landing in Cyprus, with the guard at the salute throughout, they could be Antony and Cleopatra about to lose the world for love. Placing a pause before the final word in "When I love thee not, chaos is come again" conjures up a previous way of life lacking form and ultimate purpose. Stewart knows and shows the message in the words.

But far too many of the cast do not. The gravest failure centres on Ron Canada's Iago, who deals well enough with the needling echoes that open his wicked work but generates too little tension elsewhere. No chemistry exists between him and Stewart, and in many other performances the words are spoken but the depths beyond them unrevealed. Such disparities deny us the chance to assess the quality of the photo-negative concept.

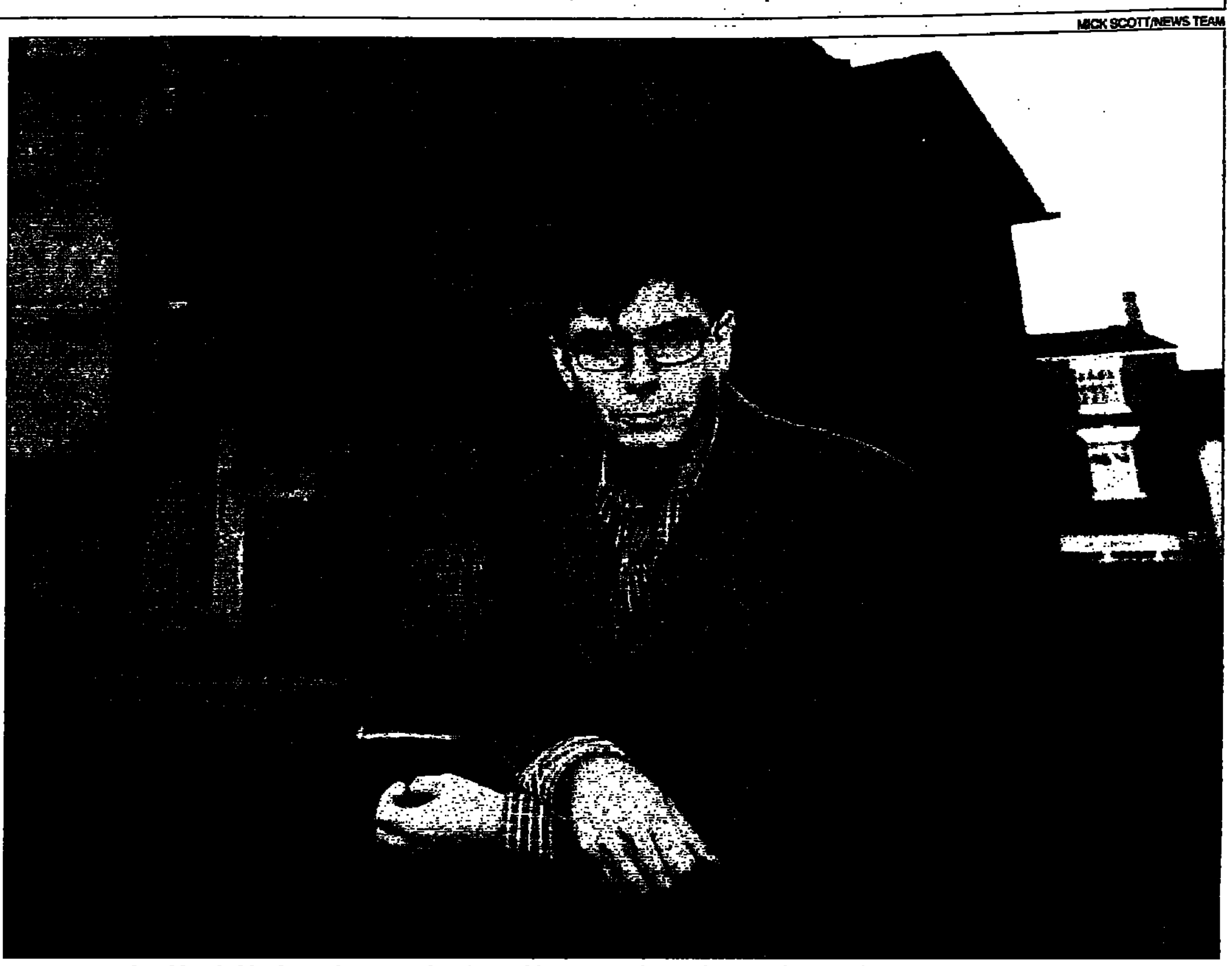
Meanwhile, the one-woman shows by Anna Deavere Smith are not only colour-blind but gender and generation-blind, for in her accounts of the riots in Los Angeles and Crown Heights she reproduces the statements of her interviewees, whether man, woman, black, white or Korean. In **House Arrest**, which opened at the Arena, Washington, the day after *Othello*, she extends her style to a cast of 12, ostensibly members of a liberal theatre company, putting on a play about the invasions of presidential privacy. The incidents extend from the revelation of Jefferson's slave-concubine to Clinton's distractions, but in its present version the show is a mess, perceptive nuggets glittering in a mound of clichés. Deavere Smith's approach to casting, however, despite Wilson's diatribe against "mimicry", looks to be the best way forward.

As is that of People's Light and Theatre Company at Malvern, Pennsylvania, where a racially mixed resident company extends the principle of diversity to include the determined encouragement of mixed audiences. Their Family Series of productions, such as the current **Beauty and the Beast**, offers work with an appeal for adults and children together. The immediate hope is that families will discuss the productions among themselves, and over a longer term that children will grow up accustomed to colour-blind casting.

Murder without a moral

Director James Macdonald shocked us with *Blasted*. Now he's doing it again, says **James Christopher**

MICK SCOTT/NEWS TEAM



James Macdonald took this play to the RSC rather than to his own Royal Court because "it's very classical in its ambition and resonances"

James Macdonald, a soft-spoken, owlish-looking theatre director, does not seem the sort who takes pleasure in baiting critics and shocking audiences. But you can never tell these days. Some of the nicest do, especially when there are reputations to be made and issues at stake.

It is three years since Macdonald was deemed to have lost every shred of human decency when he directed Sarah Kane's debut play, *Blasted*, at the Royal Court Theatre Upstairs. It might as well be decades. Few now remember how the critics went for the production, appalled at the "feast of filth" (*Daily Mail*) that unfolded when a tabloid hack and a young epileptic girl were trapped in a hotel room with a rampaging soldier. "Masturbation, frottage, micturition, fellatio, defecation, rape, eye-gouging and cannibalism" listed *The Guardian* disapprovingly.

Blasted barely merits a mention when we meet to discuss Macdonald's latest project, not because he doesn't like discussing controversies, but simply because he has always looked through and beyond them. *Roberto Zucco*, by the visionary French playwright Bernard-Marie Koltès, is just as flammable in its way as *Blasted* — and not only because the play is based on the true story of an Italian who murdered his parents at the age of 19.

The real Succo (Koltès changed the spelling) was declared to be a paranoid schizophrenic, locked up in an asylum and left to rot. He escaped at the age of 24, hitched to Toulon and continued his murderous rampage under a variety of aliases. The play, a dark, comic account of the events that led to his rearrest, was Koltès's last before he died of an Aids-related illness in 1989, aged 41.

When Peter Stein premiered *Roberto Zucco* posthumously in Berlin in 1990 it caused an instant sensation. Many saw it as a calculated piece of exploitation rather than the chilling portrait of normality it actually is. Performances scheduled for towns where murders took place or where victims' families lived were duly scrapped.

Macdonald's production at the RSC's The Other Place, in a quite wonderful translation by Martin Crimp, will be the British premiere. "It became a huge story because no one rumbled who the murderer really was," says Macdonald. "They only found out his identity when a 15-year-old girl admitted having an affair with him."

> ❛ His point is that everybody has the potential to snap ❜

Inspired by a wanted poster on the Paris Metro showing four completely different images of the suspect, Koltès began work on the play.

"There's an illustrious history of writers using real people like Succo," says Macdonald. "But it's been tarnished by the glut of artists appropriating serial killers. What's so refreshing about Koltès is that he looks at our fascination with these figures in an entirely original way. He removes almost every culturally significant signpost."

But far from being an anonymous litany of grotesqueries, Koltès's play is full of poetry, humour and insight. "His point is that everybody has the potential to snap," explains Macdonald. "We are driven by desires and needs that are deeper than we can understand. That's why all the characters, apart from Zucco, are archetypes: Panic-Stricken Prostitute, Melancholy Detective. They don't have psychological profiles. These are people who invent themselves from one moment to the next. Even Succo, like the poster, is different from scene to scene. Which makes these characters accessible to lots of different interpretations, and extremely difficult to play."

Succo committed suicide in prison by putting a plastic bag over his head (the same way he murdered his father). He was 26. "What's striking about Koltès's treatment of death," continues Macdonald, "is that it's not tied to any agenda. There are no state-of-the-nation speeches and no moralising. That makes the whole experience much more scary. It's open to interpretation."

As deputy artistic director of the Royal Court, the thirty-something Macdonald is closer to these traditions than most. Why, one wonders, has he taken this gem to the RSC? "The current British scene is so vibrant that it's hard to justify spending a fortune on a dead French writer at the Court," says Macdonald with admirable pithiness. "The play is also peculiarly suited to the RSC. It's very classical in its ambition and resonances. Koltès's gods were Racine, Marivaux and Shakespeare. What's extraordinary about the writing is the formal theatrical language he forges from the street."

There is also a desire on Macdonald's part to spread his wings. He had, he admits, thought about gunning for the Royal Court job after Stephen Daldry announced he was leaving, but more out of a desire to ensure that the Court carried on taking risks rather than ending up with "a safe pair of hands". Ian Rickson's appointment ("absolutely the right one") killed two birds with one stone. Macdonald can take his risks at the Court but also chance his arm elsewhere. The RSC, I suspect, is the lucky beneficiary of a shrewd gamble.

● Roberto Zucco *opens at The Other Place in Stratford-upon-Avon (01789 295623) tomorrow*

Honour among women

Madame de Sade
Riverside Studios

Perturbed as she is by the tales of flagellation and sodomy with prostitutes, the only thing which really appals the Marquis de Sade's mother-in-law is the prospect of dishonouring her family. She encouraged her daughter Renée to marry into his grander family, and now spends her time and fortune hushing up the scandals.

Yukio Mishima's play opens with the unfortunate woman entertaining a highly pious socialite, Baronne de Simone, and an aristocratic libertine, Saint-Fond, in the hope that they will pull strings to commute de Sade's death penalty.

As these chalk-and-cheese ladies await their hostess, Saint-Fond tells a prurient Baronne de Simone the exact, lurid circumstances of de Sade's most recent disgrace.

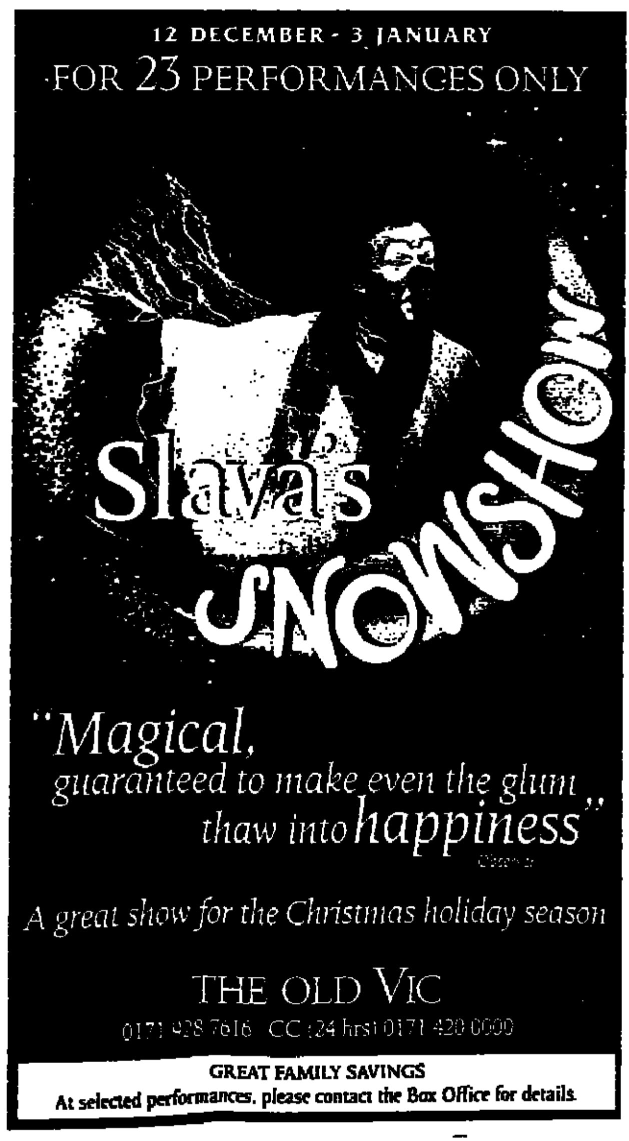
Mishima was himself a traditionalist (he hoped to revive the ancient Samurai codes of honour and, failing, committed *hara-kiri* in 1970), and a homosexual. Yet de Sade himself is not the playwright's main focus, but rather the women around him.

Renée has never been exposed to de Sade's deviance and so stolidly, almost zealously, defends and seeks to understand her husband. Her mother is horrified; her sister Anne thinks she is foolish.

Through the conflict between the six women of the play (a maidservant completes the picture), a complex and passionate debate about morality and perversion unfolds. Should a wife be constant despite the quality of her husband? Should a mother's love be unconditional? What is the value of social reputation if it depends on immorality and corruption? Is morality merely a lack of imagination?

William Glynne's production is sufficiently plain to let the intellectual argument take centre stage, but allows enough camp humour in the characterisation to mitigate some of Mishima and translator Donald Keen's sometimes florid prose. Sally Mortemore's Madame de Montreuil is a redoubtable creation, and the inexperienced Eimear McBride conveys Renée's increasingly desperate devotion convincingly. Brigid Zengeni is outstanding as the knowing, wise and unexpectedly humane Saint-Fond.

CLARE BAYLEY



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Balcony nonsense

NEW MUSIC

Roméo et Juliette
Huddersfield

IT'S cold and foggy and there seems to be nothing open after six except pubs and takeaways. You are in an ill-designed town hall, sitting sideways in an effort to avoid crushing your knees against the seat in front, and you are feeling inadequate in your limited understanding of what is happening on stage. But since the piece is new to you and something exciting could emerge at any moment, you really don't begrudge the discomfort. It can only be the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival.

As it happens, the most profound impression made by the first British performance of Pascal Dusapin's opera *Roméo et Juliette* was the dents in the kneecaps. The open mind — prepared in advance by an amiable public discussion between the festival director, the composer and his witty librettist, Olivier Cadiot — registered little. Perhaps the most authentic reaction was to give up trying to register as it became clear that, even though the lovers are manipulated by a wordy character called Bill, the Shakespearean allusions are no more meaningful than anything else in the piece.

Liberated from efforts to make sense of it, the text could be heard as music and, as Dusapin puts it, the music as text. While the score has no distinctive personality, under Lucas Pfaff's direction it did have a hypnotic effect, not least in an interlude of aboriginal music for vocal quartet and clarinet.

With most of the platform of Huddersfield Town Hall occupied by the English Northern Philharmonia, Vox Nova and the London Sinfonietta Voices, there was little that the stage director, Stephen Langridge, could do. The five principal singers — among whom Françoise Kubler and Nicholas Underwood were outstanding as one of two pairs of Romeos and Juliets — were given scarves to colour-code them and strip-light squares to stand in. A fully staged version would probably have achieved little more.

GERALD LARNER

Donizetti to savour

OPERA

Linda di Chamounix
Festival Hall

THE Donizetti bicentenary is not being marked with any fervour in this country. A certain British puritanism decrees that since he wrote more than 60 operas in a working life of less than 30 years he can't really be a *serious* composer. But while no one would argue that even half those 60 are deathless masterpieces, up to a dozen are never going to lapse from the repertory.

He took great care with the late *Linda di Chamounix* (1842). In addition to some memorable tunes, the score is packed with instrumental detail: deft application of woodwind colour; varied accompaniments for recurring themes; adventurous harmonies. There is scarcely a whiff of routine in *Linda*.

Rather to everyone's surprise Mark Elder has long nursed a passion for the piece, though despite its politically correct plot about exploited workers and lecherous aristocrats it can never have been a priority at the Coliseum in the Power House days. Elder certainly made amends with his fervent conducting of this concert performance with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, though if it is possible to kill music with too much kindness, this might have been an example.

With care lavished on almost every bar, there's a danger of loss of spontaneity. And the massed ranks of the Philharmonia Chorus, producing enough sound for a Verdi Requiem, tended to overwhelm the homespun subject matter.

But the soloists were outstanding. Mariella Devia, a soprano too little known outside her native Italy, was superb in the title role: faultless technique and beguiling musicianship. The young Argentine tenor Marcelo Alvarez, blessed with beautifully warm tone and distinctly untenorial taste, is a real find, and Alastair Miles is turning into one of the best *bel canto* basses of today. The villain is a comic character, and even in concert terms Alessandro Corbelli judged his effects to perfection. *Linda* lives.

RODNEY MILNES

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Star turn of her own party

Barbara Cook
Albert Hall

The singer who acts and the actress who sings — Barbara Cook celebrated her 70th birthday in some style

The ingenue grew up many years ago. Even so, it is startling to realise that Leonard Bernstein's original Cunegonde was celebrating her 70th birthday at this gala concert.

Elaine Stritch, Michel Legrand, Maria Friedman and the *Chess* star Tommy Körberg all had a hand in the festivities. It was, however, no self-indulgent industry love-in. Nor was there ever any question of Barbara Cook being upstaged, even when Stritch delivered her gloriously louche one-liners in a climactic duet on the lifestyle comparisons of *The Grass is Greener*.

If, as Cook pointed out, the figurine on top of her birthday cake was flatteringly proportioned — in looks, the American singer is every inch the archetypal soprano — she required no false compliments about her voice. This was singing of exceptional delicacy and dramatic range.

Having grown accustomed to hearing her in intimate settings such as the Café Royal, I was not sure whether, at this stage in her career, the Albert Hall would be the ideal venue. Aside from a few sound problems, however, any initial concerns were promptly laid to rest, her voice soon meshing with the strings of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

The first half of the evening, given over to a solo recital, was perfectly judged. The world is usually divided into actresses who try to sing and singers who try to act. Cook is one of the few performers who manage to combine the best of both traditions, as she reminded us in *It Might as Well be Spring* — and, at the close, in her encore of Bock and Harnick's *Ice Cream*.

She made an artful transition from a medley of *Can't Help Lovin' that Man* and *Bill* to the finger-snapping uplift of Johnny Mercer's *Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive*. The accompaniment was stripped to a minimal piano and bass for *Errol Flynn*, a poignant autobiographical ballad by the singer-songwriter Amanda McBroom that has become a staple of Cook's repertoire. *Surrey with the Fringe on Top*, taken from her new DRG collection devoted to Oscar Hammerstein, had a genuinely swinging big band ambience.

The programme grew a little overcrowded in the second half as one guest followed another. Friedman's bold, theatrical duet with Legrand on *I Will Wait For You* stayed just the right side of melodrama. Stritch, for her part, growled her way through *Broadway Baby* — an apt choice if ever there was one.

CLIVE DAVIS

CONCERTS: Martinů on Merseyside; more notable women; and incidental pieces of Sibelius

RLPO/Altrichter
Liverpool

ONE Czech composer who did not feature in Libor Pešek's programmes in the Philharmonic Hall — to the relief of many, no doubt — was Bohuslav Martinů. Pešek's successor with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Petr Altrichter, intends to correct the situation by performing all six of the symphonies.

Beginning with the Fourth, perhaps the most attractive, Altrichter demonstrated many of Martinů's most valuable assets. The technique is brilliant, the structure, except in the disproportionately grand ending to the short first movement, precisely calculated, the scoring masterful.

On the other hand, as in so many works in Martinů's prolific output, the quality of the material and the motivation behind it are open to doubt. Indeed, suspicions arise that compulsive activity is a substitute for inspiration and that this is not so much a symphony as a cleverly wrought illusion of one. But there could be no doubt about either Altrichter's commitment to the score or his effectiveness in communicating his enthusiasm to the orchestra, which played well in a spruce and vividly coloured performance.

Orchestral playing elsewhere was less distinguished. Just as, three weeks ago, the RLPO's principal guest conductor so sensationally set out on his Mahler series and apparently left Mozart to fend for himself, its principal conductor seems to have allowed little time after rehearsing his Martinů for preparing in Tchaikovsky. Certainly, the opening gesture of the Piano Concerto in B flat minor was far from handsome in its ill-tuned brass harmonies and, though some woodwind contributions tended to redeem an ugly situation, others merely confirmed it.

Orchestral matters did improve and, anyway, with Boris Berezovsky as soloist they were not of the first importance. His cool precision and steely brilliance are perhaps not the most sympathetic qualities for this particular work but are mightily impressive in any context.

GERALD LARNER

Ambache Ensemble
Queen Elizabeth Hall

FOR women composers, time is of the essence: time to compose, time before maternal responsibility takes over, time to negotiate performances and publication — time to be heard. The women in this programme seemed all too aware of the restrictions on time, space and attention.

From Germaine Tailleferre (1892-1983), one of Les Six, we had the briefest of concertinos; from Marie Grandval (1830-1907) there was one long arching orchestral movement from her Mass; from Louise Farrenc (1804-75) a concise, glittering overture.

Still, if these were only glimpses they were important ones: all were UK premieres.

The evening began with Mozart's *Così fan tutte* overture: a mischievously inappropriate choice, since these women were emphatically not like any others, having survived as creators against every possible prejudice. It is a miracle Tailleferre's concertino for flute and piano survived at all: it had to be transcribed from a muzzy French broadcast. Farrenc ensured her posterity by marrying a music publisher.

The concert marked the last in the series *Women of Note* devised by Diana Ambache. Over the last three years she and her ensemble have performed no fewer than 11 premieres by women composers covering a period of 250 years, rewriting musical history in the process.

HELEN WALLACE

SCO/Swensen
Barbican

COLIN DAVIS'S magisterial conducting of the first two symphonies in the opening concert of the Sibelius cycle must have been a daunting act to follow. But the challenges facing Joseph Swensen and his Scottish Chamber Orchestra were quite different and together they delivered an impressive sequel.

Where the symphonies seem to be hewn from granite, Sibelius's incidental music and genre pieces exhibit a more tender sensibility. The Swensen/SCO partnership has already proved that it can thrill and dazzle; this programme frequently had the audience catching its breath at the exquisite refinement of their sotto voce playing.

The rarely heard *Countess's Portrait* displayed their exemplary control to perfection. Conceived as a melodrama — that is, a recitation of a poem with musical accompaniment — the work alludes to a woman long dead, who lives on only in the form of an artistic portrayal. The hushed strings evoked an aptly ghost-like presence. Even more faintly whispered — though it scarcely seemed possible — was the *Death of Mélisande* in the *Pelléas et Mélisande Suite*, while the earlier movements depicting the mysterious waif were utterly beguiling. *On the Seashore* hinted at the menacing undertow to the story, and the tautly disciplined rhythms of the *Entr'acte* — with woodwind solos intertwining — similarly climaxed in solemn mood.

BARRY MILLINGTON

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

BEETHOVEN AND BACH: The idiosyncratic English violinist Nigel Kennedy joins the English Chamber Orchestra as soloist and director for an evening of music by the two German master composers. On the programme are Beethoven's *Coriolan Overture* and Violin Concerto, and Bach's Violin Concerto in A minor and Concerto for Two Violins in D minor. For the latter Kennedy is joined by fellow violinist Katharine Gowers. The conductor is Shuntaro Sato.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm. ♿

A GRAND NIGHT OUT: Wallace and Gromit take to the stage for Christmas, pursued to London by the Penguin, escaped from gaol and bent on revenge. Nick Park's characters put through their paces by the *Thunderbirds FAB* team.
Peacock Theatre, Portugal Street, off Kingsway, WC2 (0171-494 5090). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Mats almost daily from December 19.

LONE STAR: Tom Butcher, Huw Higginson and Mark Wingett, all from *The Bill* and directed by Russell Boulter, come back to the stage in James McLure's comedy set in a cluttered Texas yard.
Old Red Lion, 418 St John's St, EC1 (0171-837 7816). Previews Nov tonight and tomorrow, 8pm. Opens Thur, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm.

BIRTHDAY GALA. The Orchestra of St John's celebrates its 30th anniversary with a festive concert featuring Rossini's overture to *The Barber of Seville*, Fauré's *Elegie*, and Beethoven's Symphony No 9. A glittering line-up of musicians includes the soprano Rosa Mannion, mezzo Christine Cairns and bass Robert Hayward. John Lubbock conducts.
St John's, Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061). Tonight, 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

BLACKPOOL. The first of seven performances here for Christopher Gable's production for Northern Ballet Theatre of Charles Dickens's seasonal story, **A Christmas Carol**. Danced to Carl Davis's atmospheric score the work has designs by Lez Brotherston and is choreographed for the company by the Italian Massimo Moricone.
Grand Theatre, Church Street (01253 28372). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thur, 2pm and Sat, 2.30pm. ♿

Rosa Mannion sings at the St John's gala

GUILDFORD. George Costigan's inflammable production for the Bristol Old Vic of Shakespeare's **Macbeth** descends on town. Star of stage and silver screen, Pete Postlethwaite, repeats his spellbinding performance as the psychotic Scottish thane.
Yvonne Arnaud, Millbrook (01483 440000). Tonight-Thur, 7.45pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm; mats Thur and Sat, 2.30pm. Ends Saturday. ♿

MANCHESTER: One week here for Derek Deane's new version for English National Ballet of **The Nutcracker**, set to Tchaikovsky's score but with an updated storyline, and modern designs by Sue Blane. The production arrives in London on December 8.
Palace Theatre, Oxford Street (0161-242 2503). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. ♿

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: Adrian Noble directs Helen Schlesinger and Clare Holman as Viola and Olivia in **Twelfth Night**. The cast also includes David Calder, Stephen Boxer, and Philip Voss as Malvolio.
Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Waterside (01789 295623). Opens tonight, 7pm. In repertoire. ♿

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Don McCullin (0171-638 8891) . . . **British Museum:** Cartier 1900-1939 (0171-323 8525) . . . **Design Museum:** Conran Foundation Collection (0171-378 6055) . . . **Hulton Getty Picture Gallery:** A Winter's Tale (0171-376 4525) . . . **National:** Traveling companions: Courbet and Renoir (0171-747 2885) . . . **National Portrait:** Sir Henry Raeburn (1756-1823) (0171-306 0055) . . . **Portal:** John Byrne (0171-493 0706) . . . **Tate:** Turner on the Loire: The Tour through Northern France (0171-887 8000) . . . **V & A:** Carl and Karin Larsson: Creators of the Swedish Style (0171-938 8349/8441)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◩ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

■ **ART:** Ron Cook, Nigel Havers and Malcolm Storry in this exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white painting.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun, 5pm.

☐ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.** Disney's film turned into a hit Broadway musical. Julie-Alannah Brighten and Alasdair Harvey as the leads, with support from the likes of Derek Griffiths and Norman Rossington.
Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-416 6060). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

◩ **BUGSY MALONE:** The cast of the National Youth Music Theatre fire their splurge-guns in the spoof gangster musical derived from Alan Parker's movie. Jeremy Taylor directs.
Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Until Jan 10.

■ **CHICAGO:** Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical directed by Walter Bobbie. A multi-Tony winner on Broadway last year. Starring Ruthie Henshall, Ute Lemper, Henry Goodman and Nigel Planer.
Adelphi, Strand, London WC2 (0171-344 0055). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. ♿

■ **A DELICATE BALANCE:** Eileen Atkins hauntingly chilling in welcome revival of Albee's play about marriage, parenthood and neighbourliness. Maggie Smith plays the drunk sister.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. ♿

☐ **HRH.** Corin Redgrave and Amanda Donohue play the Duke and Duchess of Windsor in another stage version of their doings, this time exiled to the Bahamas, and no music.
Playhouse, Northumberland Ave, WC2 (0171-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thur and Sat, 3pm. ♿

☐ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND:** Return of Peter Hall's enjoyable production, brimful of deceptions. Starring Martin Shaw and Simon Ward, and Kate O'Mara as the svelte troublemaker.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thur 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

☐ **A LETTER OF RESIGNATION:** Edward Fox and Clare Higgins play Harold Macmillan and Lady Dorothy in Hugh Whitemore's play about the effects of the Profumo scandal.
Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

☐ **ORPHEUS.** Kenneth McLeish puts translation aside to write a play of his own, derived from the Greek myth. Actors Touring Company production by Nick Philippou, with Ann Firbank, Shelley King and Gary Turner.
Lyric Studio, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 8701). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4.30pm. ♿

◩ **OTHELLO:** David Harewood makes his National Theatre debut in the title role of Sam Mendes's production, with Claire Skinner as Mrs Othello and Simon Russell Beale as Iago.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Thur, 7pm; mat tomorrow, 1.30pm. In rep.

☐ **STEPPING OUT.** Musical version of Richard Harris's hit play. Julia McKenzie directs Liz Robertson and her hopeful hoofers.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thur, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

☐ **TALES MY LOVER TOLD ME:** New musical comedy written and directed by Chris Burgess, music by Sarah Travis, about three women in their early middle years struggling to stay friends.
King's Head, Upper St, N1 (0171-226 1916). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mat Sun, 3pm.

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . . . ◩ **Buddy:** Strand (0171-930 8800) . . . ◩ **Cats:** New London (0171-405 0072) . . . ◩ **An Inspector Calls:** Garrick (0171-494 5085) . . . ☐ **Jesus Christ Superstar:** Lyceum (0171-656 1807) . . . ◩ **Miss Saigon:** Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . . . ☐ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . . . ☐ **Oliver!:** Palladium (0171-494 5020) . . . ☐ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054) . . . ☐ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

EXCESS BAGGAGE (12): Alicia Silverstone fakes her own kidnapping to secure her father's love. Empty-headed and exasperating comedy. Director, Marco Brambilla.
Virgin Trocadero ♿ (0181-970 6015)

INVENTING THE ABBOTTS (15): Coming of age in late 1950s Illinois. Overly solemn and old-fashioned drama. Pat O'Connor directs Joaquin Phoenix, Liv Tyler, Billy Crudup.
ABC Shaftesbury Av (0171-836 6279)

LAWN DOGS (15): Two outsiders form a dangerous friendship in Kentucky. Imaginative drama, with strong performances by young Mischa Barton and Sam Rockwell. Director, John Duigan.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722)

NOTHING TO LOSE (15): Tim Robbins wastes his time and ours in a lame comedy about an advertising executive on the road with a mugger. With Martin Lawrence. Director, Steve Oedekerk.
Odeon Marble Arch (0181-315 4216) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Trocadero** ♿ (0181-970 6015) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

REGENERATION (15): Powerful and poignant version of Pat Barker's novel about first world war soldiers in an Edinburgh military hospital, with Jonathan Pryce and James Wilby. Director, Gillies MacKinnon.
Odeon Haymarket (0181-315 4212)

◆ **SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET** (PG): Brad Pitt finds enlightenment in 1940s Tibet, but what about us? Handsome but muddled drama, with David Thewlis. Director, Jean-Jacques Annaud.
Empire ♿ (0990 888990) ♿ **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** ♿ (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990)

WELCOME TO SARAJEVO (15): Striking British account of reporters covering the civil war in 1992, based on Michael Nicholson's experiences. With Stephen Dillane. Director, Michael Winterbottom.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Virgin Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

◆ **CHASING AMY** (18): Comic-book artist finds himself in love with a lesbian. Appealing new film from *Clerks* director Kevin Smith, with Ben Affleck and Joey Lauren Adams.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Curzon Phoenix** (0171-369 1721) **Gate** ♿ (0171-727 4043) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Metro** (0171-437 0757) **Odeon Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990)

◆ **THE FULL MONTY** (15): Unemployed steelworkers strip for cash. Bouncy British comedy, with Robert Carlyle, Tom Wilkinson, Mark Addy. Director, Peter Cattaneo.
ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Mezzanine** ♿ (0181-315 4215) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** ♿ (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0181-970 6015)

KAMA SUTRA (18): Sexual games in 16th-century India. Decorative but pointless drama from director Mira Nair.
ABC Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

◆ **L.A. CONFIDENTIAL** (18): Smashing drama about corruption in LA in the early 1950s, with Kevin Spacey, Russell Crowe, Kim Basinger, Guy Pearce and Danny DeVito. Director, Curtis Hanson.
Greenwich (0181-235 3005) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) *Screen/Hill* ♿ (0171-435 3366) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

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LAW

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Going straight to the Bar

Frances Gibb on a new scheme to improve access to lawyers and, below, **Hilary Heilbron**, QC, on the thinking behind it

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People will no longer have to pay a solicitor before they brief a barrister under a ground-breaking scheme launched last week. The Bar Council pilot enables advice bureaux, law centres and Shelter, the housing charity, to instruct barristers directly, thus saving people the cost of paying first for a solicitor.

The initiative dismantles one of the last restrictive practices of the legal profession, which requires members of the public to use a solicitor to instruct a barrister.

Under the 12-month project, seven advice agencies — including Shelter and the Citizens Advice Bureaux — will join in partnership with 18 sets of chambers. If successful, the scheme is likely to be seen as a blueprint for the Government's proposed community legal service which envisages a key role for the advice sector in the delivery of legal services.

The Bar already allows other professions to brief barristers directly. Now it has amended its rules so that advice workers can refer cases, both legally aided and private, without the need to go to a solicitor first.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, has welcomed the project: "It is no longer good enough for the legal profession to carry on doing the same old things in the same old ways, regardless of the expense to the taxpayer or the privately paying client," he says. "People understandably wonder whether it is really always necessary to instruct a solicitor when they want advice from a barrister and whether this is not just another way of ensuring that, whatever else happens, the lawyers continue to make money."

Dave McNeil, spokesman for the Law Society, says the society was not opposed: "As long as cases are properly prepared, we cannot see any problem. After all, we are pressing to break down the Bar's monopoly of advocacy in the Crown Courts so we cannot really object to this."

Choice, flexibility and not a lot to pay

Legal advice agencies such as the Citizens Advice Bureaux play an invaluable role in the provision of legal services. They are the first port of call for millions of people affected by matters with legal implications. They provide easily accessible advice and sympathetic understanding to those unclear about their rights and responsibilities. Much of their work does not involve great legal knowledge, but this is changing.

The advice agencies' role in providing legal services is to be extended by this Government as part of its community legal service programme. Traditionally, such agencies have concentrated on areas such as welfare benefits, housing, employments and debt. But it is likely that their services will in future be used for a wider spread of legal problems.

Under a Legal Aid Board pilot scheme now under way, non-solicitor agencies — those without qualified legal staff — have been franchised by the board so that they receive funds from the board for specified areas of work. This is part of what the Lord Chancellor recently described as the "refocusing of the legal aid scheme". Fast-track hearings as proposed by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, are likely to provide a further impetus to a wider range of services from advice agencies.

At present, where qualified legal advice or professional advocacy is needed, the arrangements are cumbersome both for agencies and clients. If the matter is beyond the legal competence or experience of the advice centre, options are currently limited. Lawyers — both barristers and solicitors — do give considerable help free of charge, but this cannot cope with the potential volume.

Essentially, once a matter needs professional legal help, it has to be sent to a solicitor, irrespective of whether it is complicated or not. The individual has to repeat his problem to someone else before, if appropriate, a barrister can be instructed. Often the agency is fully familiar with the facts but needs an expert legal opinion or a professional advocate to represent the individual in court or before a tribunal.

To tackle this problem, the Bar Council has agreed in principle that barristers may be instructed directly by advice agencies in appropriate cases. The client and agency will have a much wider choice of lawyer and greater flexibility in how to handle a case. Costs will also be reduced, not least because barristers' charges tend to be competitive. Many cases will still be referred to solicitors, but there is considerable scope for an increasing number of referrals directly to barristers in relatively simple cases.

The pilot scheme is a first step. It will be closely monitored, and extended if successful. Guidelines have been prepared for both the agencies and barristers. Advance information on the barrister's fees will be given so that clients can budget their costs. The service provided by the advice agencies will remain free.

To ensure appropriate standards, all the agencies involved are already franchised by the Legal Aid Board under the first wave of non-solicitor agency franchising. The second stage is to extend the scheme to representation in the lower courts and tribunals. This is farther-reaching, but just as compelling in its potential to fulfil an unmet need.

The initiative will enable legal aid resources allocated to advice agencies to be more effectively targeted, and in time, increased. It will also enable those above the legal-aid threshold, "middle-income Britain", to acquire the services of a lawyer at a price they can afford.

● *The author is chairman of the Bar Council working party on direct referral to legal advice agencies.*

INS AND OUTS

Irvine's support

LORD IRVINE of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, has been hinting that he wants the Bar Council to forge ahead with its cautious policy of slowly opening up the profession to direct referrals. Last week he wrote to Hilary Heilbron, QC, to congratulate her on the Bar's pilot scheme to give advice centres direct access to barristers (see above).

He added: "I am sure the Bar Council will consider what other areas can be opened up to direct referral . . ."

Early days

CHERIE BOOTH, QC, was in a reflective mood last week when she officially opened the North London legal aid firm Hodge Jones & Allen's new premises during its 20th anniversary celebrations — an event which drew the entire great and good of new Labour. She made a point of praising the firm for its commitment to helping the disadvantaged when, she said, many were questioning whether it was still worth trying to help the less well-off.

She also revealed her own close links with the firm, founded a few months after she started practising. She regularly took instructions from it, including her first case before the Queen's Bench Division, and was such good friends with one employee, Maggie Rae, now of Mishcon de Reya, that she and her husband, Tony Blair, spent the first three months of their marriage living with her.

Centre-stage

JOHN MORTIMER, QC, is still much in demand as an after or pre-dinner speaker — three legal occasions have called on his services recently.

He spoke on *Law: Fact or Fiction?* for the Margaret Howard Memorial Lecture. The event is organised by her daughter, Gill Howard, an employment lawyer whose friends come from beyond the law to embrace the likes of Arnold Wesker.

Ms Howard says: "My parents were great theatregoers in Coventry, where Arnold's plays were first staged."

Fair plea

THE campaign group Fair Trials Abroad and its director Stephen Jakobi were regularly used by the national media to comment on the Louise Woodward case. The London-based charity handles individual casework, runs a database for lawyers and conducts research projects into access to justice abroad.

But for how much longer can it help British citizens who face trials in foreign courthouses without a new injection of funds? It is labouring under an overdraft approaching £40,000. Mr Jakobi does not draw a salary.

● *STEVEN PHILIPSOHN (Law, November 11) is a specialist fraud partner at Philipsohn Crawford Berarld, not a specialist in Ford.*

Young judge

TWO popular High Court judgeships have just been announced: David Penry-Davey, QC, 55, a deputy High Court judge, criminal practitioner and last year's Bar Chairman; and Stephen Richards, who since 1992 has been responsible for acting for the Government in civil cases in his role as First Junior Treasury Counsel. Richards, at 46, is one of the youngest High Court judges to have been appointed.

SCRIVENOR

Dr Pannick, I presume

Pannick: tribute

THE leading QC and *Times* columnist David Pannick has been awarded an honorary doctorate in law by the University of Hertfordshire — and in part it is for his writing. Professor Neil Buxton, Vice-Chancellor, paid tribute to Mr Pannick's work as a lawyer, academic and journalist.

Half a century of being reasonable

This month is the 50th birthday of a judgment that so far has been cited in more civil court cases than perhaps any other. In November 1947, the Court of Appeal delivered its decision in *Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation*. Not a week has passed since when the "Wednesbury principles" have not been intoned in courtrooms and lawyers' offices throughout Britain.

The case concerned a local authority which had, under the Sunday Entertainments Act 1932, granted a licence to the plaintiffs for them to open their cinema on Sundays. The Act allowed for a licence to be granted with "such conditions as the authority thinks fit". The corporation imposed the condition that children under 15 were, whether accompanied by an adult or not, not to be allowed into cinemas on Sundays. The company argued that the provision was "unreasonable" and therefore *ultra vires*, that is, beyond the powers of the corporation. It argued that the court should be the arbiter of whether a condition was reasonable.

GARY SLAPPER

The High Court refused to grant a declaration that the corporation had acted unreasonably, and the company appealed. After the war a great many Acts and many more pieces of delegated legislation gave executive bodies wide discretion to do things such as grant licences and make planning decisions. These powers affected food, drink, travel, building, education, work, and pensions. It was critical to know when a controversial decision by the executive could be successfully challenged in the courts. How was "unreasonableness" to be identified? After all, virtually every executive decision will upset some section of the community.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, and the reasoning of Lord Greene, the Master of the Rolls, soon crystallised into a hallowed and frequently cited legal proposition. He ruled that where Parliament had entrusted discretionary powers to another body, such as a local authority, the courts could declare that some decisions were "unreasonable", and thus *ultra vires*, but in very limited circumstances. The courts could not simply substitute their own opinion for that of the other body. To be unreasonable, the decision would have to be one where an authority had "taken into account matters which it ought not to take into account, or, conversely, has refused to take into account or neglected to take into account matters which it ought to take into account". Even if the decision-making process passes that test, the decision could still be challenged in the courts if it was one which "no reasonable body could have come to". An example given in an earlier case was a teacher dismissed because she had red hair.

The principles have since become the touchstone of the courts when deciding judicial review cases. Since 1947 there has been an exponential growth in the number of bodies and individuals who have been entrusted with important discretionary powers, and consequently of people complaining about unreasonable decisions.

The Wednesbury principles have been called upon in court to determine the outcome of many major disputes: could Leicester City Council ban a local rugby club from using a local sports ground after the club had failed to stop some of its members from touring South Africa during apartheid in 1984? Could the Ministry of Defence discharge from the Armed Forces four people because of their sexual orientation? Was the Home Secretary acting within his powers when, in 1988, he issued a notice to the BBC and IBA requiring them to refrain from broadcasting any words spoken by groups such as Sinn Fein, the IRA and the Ulster Defence Association? Were the television authorities acting within their powers in granting the Referendum Party only one party political broadcast in the last general election?

A decision to give preferential treatment to a councillor by awarding her a council house ahead of the queue was declared unlawful as it was influenced by the view of the chairman of the housing committee that it would help to get her re-elected. Similarly, the decision of a local authority to switch its advertisements for teachers from *The Times Higher Educational Supplement* to another paper because the leader of the council was suing the newspaper's publishers for libel was held to be unlawful.

There were 3,604 applications to the High Court for judicial review in 1995, the last year for which figures are available. If delegated powers continue to grow, and if the Wednesbury principles reach their 100th birthday without being overruled, an unreasonably large human effort will be spent on the determination of what is reasonable.

● *Dr Slapper is Director of the Law Programme at the Open University.*

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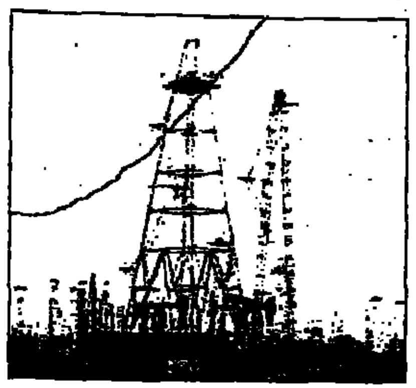
Wheels of Eastern deals oiled

Investments in Russia are paying off, says **Edward Fennell**



Oil well in Baku: expanding work

Sighs of relief were being heard around City law firms last week at the announcements of Royal Dutch-Shell's link with Gazprom, and British Petroleum's purchase of 10 per cent of Sidanco and the accompanying stake in vast gasfields on the Chinese border. For those with strong energy and mineral practices in the former Soviet Union, the deals were a vindication of the time and money invested during the past seven years. Alan Jowett, head of the oil and gas group at Herbert Smith, comments: "These deals indicate that a threshold in development has been passed. It confirms that this sector will now start expanding at an ever-increasing rate."

By Western standards it has been a long time coming, but lawyers who know the area advise that the only way to operate in Russia and the new independent states is by thinking long-term. Mark Saunders, a partner with Nabarro Nathanson, says: "First you make friends, then you make partners, then you do deals and then you make money. You cannot short-circuit that sequence."

Many of the big firms have invested in offices and staffing in Russia and Kazakhstan in the hope that it will pay off. But life has occasionally been uncomfortable as their London partners in less exotic sectors have questioned when the profits will start to flow. Political instability, corruption and the difficulties of the area have sown doubts about whether business will ever take off.

For those who knew about energy and minerals, there was never any question about the importance of the area. It would just take time. Spurred on by last week's news, lawyers who have believed in the potential of the region are now preparing to move forward. This week, for example, Alan Jowett is in Moscow for three days with a view to the firm establishing an office there. In the past, it was hard to choose whether or not to have a local presence. Now the arguments are more clear-cut. In any case, rival firms such as Clifford Chance and Linklaters, which has been acting for BP, have had offices in Russia for years. So, too, have some of the smaller players with strong energy interests, such as Denton Hall.

The knock-on effects of these big energy deals is likely to be enormous as Western suppliers and investors — from providers of technical plants to hoteliers — receive a boost to their confidence. As one lawyer commented: "When you see Shell and BP going in on a massive scale, it gives you reassurance that it is worth persevering."

It also marks an important stage in the growing credibility of commercial law in those jurisdictions after a period of extensive reform. As Alan Jowett points out: "There are still inconsistencies and gaps in local law out there and lags in the process of reform. But major investors now understand what can be achieved and are confident that the law will give them sufficient protection." Most deals are concluded in a mix of English, New York and local law, according to the shape of the transaction. Where land is concerned, for example, there is no alternative to the use of local statutes.

There is no question, however, that Western investors are looking for more than legal knowledge when selecting their legal advisers for projects in these territories. For example, the Morrison Construction Group, based in London, has been active recently in Azerbaijan undertaking large-scale projects for Western oil consortiums. Its legal advisers are the niche Aberdeen oil practice, Ledingham Chalmers, which also has a "working presence" in Baku.

STILL TIME TO WRITE YOUR WINNER

CALLING all students: there are just under two weeks before the December 5 deadline for The Times Law Awards competition held in collaboration with One Essex Court, the chambers of Anthony Grabiner, QC.

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● *Full details 0171-583 2000, or see* Law, *October 14 (via Library in Resources) on The Times Website at:*

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Stephen Silber, QC, on the Law Commission's proposed offence for the misuse of trade secrets

Secrets of success stay in the boardroom

Trade secrets cannot be stolen under present law because they do not constitute "property" for the purpose of the Theft Act 1968. This aspect of the law has been strongly criticised because in the words of an eminent parliamentarian, this is a country where "the theft of the boardroom table is punished far more severely than the theft of the boardroom secrets".

Other jurisdictions have extended the protection of the criminal law to the deliberate misuse of confidential business information: for example, the majority of American states and a number of European countries, including France and Germany, provide criminal sanctions against the misuse of trade secrets. In a consultation paper published today, *Misuse of Trade Secrets (LCCP 150)*, we have provisionally concluded that there should be criminal sanctions for the misuse of trade secrets essentially because there is no distinction between harm caused by theft and the deliberate misuse of trade secrets. In both cases, the assets are being used for the benefit of the wrongdoer and the owner is likely to be caused damage. We are conscious that vast amounts of money are spent on producing trade secrets such as manufacturing formula and technical data, and it seems strange that the criminal law does not provide a sanction.

It is also inconsistent for the law to provide criminal sanctions for the infringement of copyright and registered trademarks but not for the misuse of trade secrets. We also believe that civil remedies alone are insufficient to discourage trade secret misuse, as many wrongdoers do not have the funds to satisfy any judgment against them. At present the law has no effective sanctions against the person who dishonestly misuses trade secrets and has no assets.

The Law Commission is very anxious that any new offences should be very clear, and therefore provisionally proposes that the definition of a "trade secret" should include a requirement that the owner had indicated — expressly or impliedly — his wish to keep it secret. We invite views on whether the definition of trade secrets should make a reference to the use of the information in a trade or business and, if so, whether the definition should extend to information used in a profession or in non-commercial research.

Our provisional view is that the new offence should be committed by any person who uses or discloses a trade secret belonging to another without that other's consent. By "belonging to another" we mean the person is entitled to the benefit of the trade secret.

The Law Commission provisionally proposes that it should be an element of the new offence that the defendant knows that the information in question is a trade secret belonging to another and that he is aware that the other does not (or may not) consent to its use or disclosure.

"The theft of the boardroom table is punished far more severely than the theft of the boardroom secrets"

The proposed new offence must be defined so that it does not prevent socially desirable conduct. So we are very anxious that there should be a public interest defence and propose that the new offence should not apply to any disclosure or information which under the law of confidence would be justified on grounds of public interest. Our provisional view is that that there should be no criminal liability for the use or disclosure of a trade secret for the purpose of prevention, detection or exposure of crime, fraud or breach of duty, or which constitutes the present or future threat to the health or wealth of the community. The press will therefore be protected.

Our proposed offence deals with the misuse of trade secrets but we invite views on whether the law should also cover the acquisition of a trade secret and, if so, whether this could be achieved by creating an offence of acquiring a trade secret with the intention of using it or disclosing it or an offence of acquiring a trade secret by wrongful means or an offence defined in some other way.

We are concerned that the proposed offence could be misused by a plaintiff threatening a defendant with a private prosecution for the new offence. We therefore provisionally propose that a prosecution for the new offence should be brought only with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The existence of our proposed offence might mean that defendants in civil proceedings could claim that they need not give information or provide documents because of the fear of incriminating themselves for the new offence.

We propose that a person should not be entitled to rely on the privilege against self-incrimination in respect not only of our proposed offence but also of any conspiracy to commit it. To safeguard the person who gives information or provides documents at civil proceedings, we propose that such information or documents would not be permissible against that person save for proceedings for perjury or contempt of court.

We wish to obtain views from as many people as possible. Responses welcomed by March 20, 1998.

● Misuse of Trade Secrets *(LCCP 150) (£20), obtainable on Internet soon on:*

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PRACTICE

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▶ Construction **West End**
This leading commercial practice requires a lawyer with around 1 years experience to undertake construction work with a contentious bias. The work will include arbitration and/or court proceedings and commercial developments. Contact Jane Foster. **Ref: 1234**

▶ IT/Telecoms **City**
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This recently established firm seeks an immigration lawyer with 3 to 4 years experience. You will be dealing with varied work, including Asia Pacific matters, work permit applications, acting for senior corporate executives and high net worth individuals. Contact Samantha Knowles. **Ref: 1823**

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▶ SIF Litigation **Tunbridge Wells**
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IN-HOUSE

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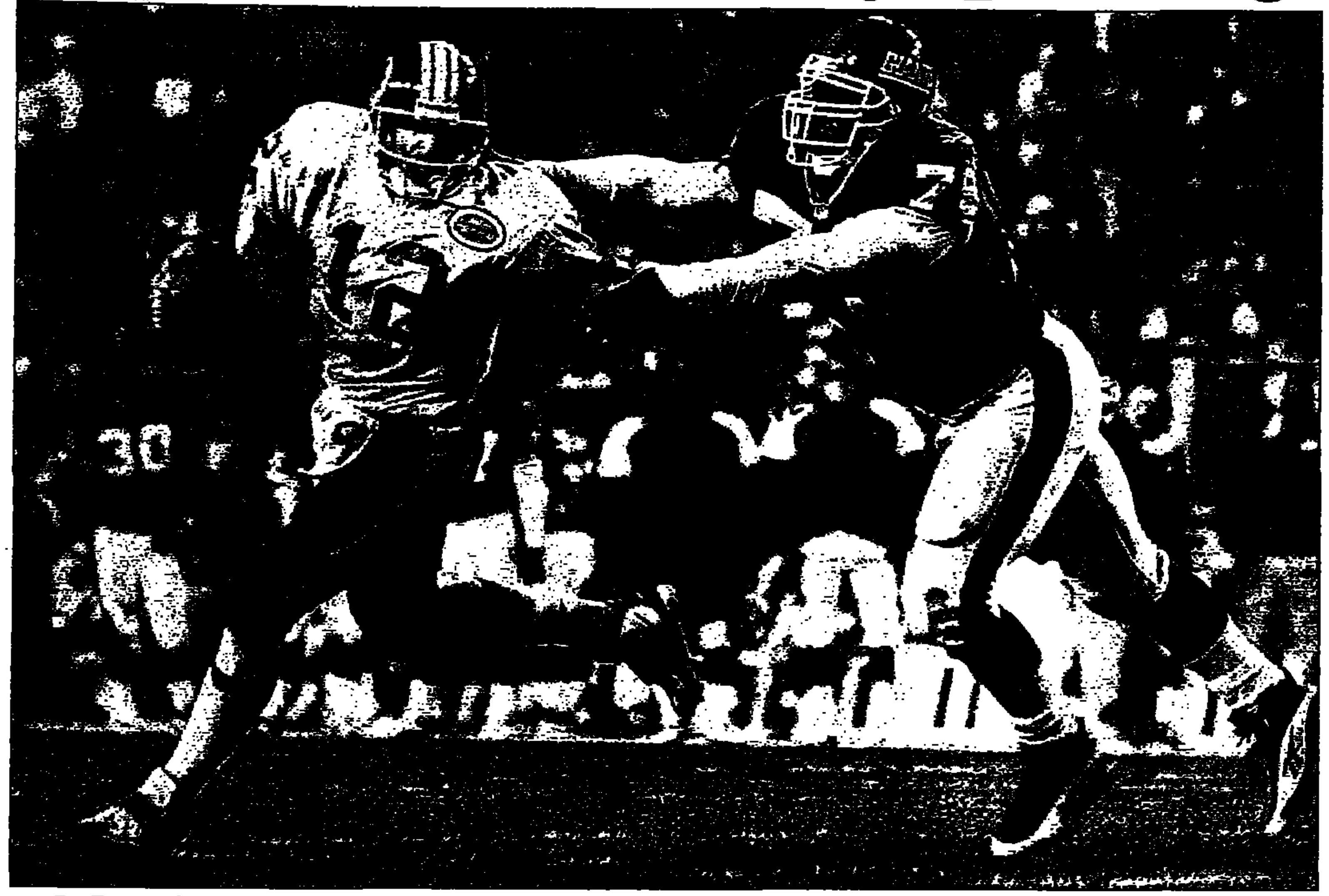
AMERICAN FOOTBALL: INSPIRED GREEN BAY DESTROY DALLAS CLAIMS TO SUPERIORITY

Favre sends frozen Cowboys packing

By Oliver Holt



Gus Frerotte, the Washington Redskins quarterback, eludes Bernard Holsey to score a second-quarter touchdown against the New York Giants

BARRY SWITZER has done it again. The coach of the Dallas Cowboys, famous for giving himself a hefty boot in the mouth every few months, said last week that his team still regarded themselves as the true Super Bowl champions, in spite of the fact that the Green Bay Packers won the National Football League's ultimate prize last year. On Sunday, the Packers gave their reply.

Perhaps Mike Holmgren, the Green Bay coach, had taped Switzer's words up on the locker-room walls, because what happened at Lambeau Field at the weekend was about as clear an example of the passing of the flame from one team to another as it is possible to get.

With a crushing 45-17 win over a Cowboy team that it had not beaten in eight previous attempts, the Packers reinforced the growing feeling that they, and not the Cowboys, have now assumed the mantle of being "America's Team".

Three times in the past seven years, the Cowboys stood between the Packers and the Super Bowl in the play-offs and each time Dallas emerged triumphant. On Sunday, the Packers finally got the Cowboys where they wanted them, on the "frozen tundra" of their home stadium in northern Wisconsin, and this time they exacted their revenge.

Brett Favre, their quarterback, threw for four touchdowns and their running back, Dorsey Levens, rushed for 190 yards, a record for Green Bay. The Packers have now won six of their past seven games and went into a clear lead at the top of the National Football Conference central division.

The Cowboys, who have lost half of their opening 12 games, face the indignity of not even making the play-offs, an eventuality that will almost certainly lead to the sack for Switzer, a man once labelled "Bozo the Coach" by the national media.

After a tight first half, the Packers burst into a commanding lead in the third quarter, when Favre threw two touchdown passes to the Green Bay tight end, Mark Chmura. "It's great finally to beat these guys," Favre said. "It's a shame it took so long but we finally did it and, believe me, they are still good."

With the Cowboys effectively removed from the reckoning, it seems that only the San Francisco 49ers stand between the Packers and another place in the Super Bowl, in San Diego on January 25. That particular obstacle to Green Bay ambition, though, seems to be growing with every game that the 49ers play.

On Sunday, on home territory, San Francisco broke a franchise record by winning their eleventh consecutive regular-season game with a 17-10 win over the San Diego Chargers. Steve Young, their quarterback, who is in the midst of a welcome renaissance, threw for two touchdowns and also moved into second place in the all-time quarterback rushing list.

"It is nice to get 11 straight," Steve Mariucci, the San Francisco coach, said. "We wanted to cut loose today but quite simply it just did not happen. Obviously we want to be better. We would like to be a bit more consistent."

Last year the New York Jets were the most consistent team in the National Football League: they lost 15 of their 16 games. On Sunday, though, they continued the remarkable transformation effected by their new coach, Bill Parcells, when they beat the Minnesota Vikings 23-21 to regain sole possession of the lead in the American Football Conference eastern division.

There was a deeper significance to the win, too. It was the Jets' eighth of the season and it meant that they were now assured, at the least, of not having more losses than wins at the end of the regular season, a record that was inconceivable this time last year. "That was a big, big win for us today," Parcells said. "They can't call us losers any more."

NFL DETAILS

RESULTS: Arizona 16 Baltimore 13; Tennessee 31 Buffalo 14; Green Bay 45 Dallas 17; Detroit 32 Indianapolis 10; New England 27 Miami 24; New York Jets 23 Minnesota 21; Atlanta 20 New Orleans 3, Philadelphia 23 Pittsburgh 20; Chicago 13 Tampa Bay 7, Carolina 16 St Louis 10; Cincinnati 31 Jacksonville 26; Kansas City 19 Seattle 14; San Francisco 17 San Diego 10; New York Giants 7 Washington 7

Not including last night's match: Denver v Oakland

American Conference

Eastern division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
NY Jets	8	4	0	283	232
Miami	7	5	0	260	226
New England	7	5	0	288	216
Buffalo	5	7	0	197	286
Indianapolis	1	11	0	205	328

Central division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
Jacksonville	8	4	0	305	242
Pittsburgh	8	4	0	281	226
Tennessee	6	6	0	257	228
Baltimore	4	7	1	233	257
Cincinnati	4	8	0	225	309

Western division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
Denver	9	2	0	324	184
Kansas City	9	3	0	247	203
Seattle	6	6	0	264	277
Oakland	4	7	0	275	282
San Diego	4	8	0	225	306

National Conference

Eastern division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
NY Giants	7	4	1	218	207
Washington	6	5	1	224	176
Dallas	6	6	0	246	213
Philadelphia	5	6	1	203	244
Arizona	3	9	0	196	262

Central division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
Green Bay	9	3	0	316	234
Minnesota	8	4	0	274	262
Tampa Bay	8	4	0	242	192
Detroit	6	6	0	267	230
Chicago	2	10	0	195	322

Western division

Western division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
* San Francisco	11	1	0	295	149
Carolina	6	6	0	201	224
Atlanta	4	8	0	236	295
New Orleans	4	8	0	154	245
St Louis	2	10	0	202	281

* won division title

TENNIS

Novotna puts past failures far behind her

From Alix Ramsay in New York

THE year is almost over, Thanksgiving is around the corner and Jana Novotna has a few weeks off to decide how to spend her $500,000 (about £310,000) as the winner of the Chase Championships here. Her 7-6, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Mary Pierce rounded off one of the most successful seasons for women's tennis and a fascinating week in Madison Square Garden.

For Novotna, at the age of 29, she felt that it was the finest moment in her long career. She has made her mark in grand-slam events in doubles, winning 13 titles, but, when it came to singles, she has never done herself justice, losing two finals at Wimbledon and one in Australia. Now, at last, she has a significant trophy to add to her collection.

"I have come a long way," she said. "After winning this tournament, even if I don't win another tournament, even if I don't win another match, I just proved to myself that I am the player I expected to be. I am a champion."

It was not the greatest of finals, but Novotna's style, with her powerful service — she racked up 15 aces — and clean volleys made it an entertaining encounter. Pierce started by trying her hand at the net, but, after losing the first set, she reverted to the relative safety of the baseline.

"I'm happy I made the final, but I'm not so happy that I didn't win," Pierce said. "Jana played a great match and I'm not ashamed of myself. I have a lot to look forward to next year."

Pierce's defeat of Martina Hingis earlier in the week was one of the best matches of the tournament. Indeed, the event had been open from the start and, with the chance to dent a few reputations, each player took her turn in the spotlight.

The championships also emphasised the fact that women's tennis is enjoying a revival. Hingis has won three of the four grand-slam events this year at the age of 17, and Anna Kournikova and Venus Williams have made headlines, if not finals, in 1997.

"We have been waiting a long time for this moment, where we see the changing of the generations," Novotna said.

"Women's tennis needed a boost and we needed the younger players. Now it makes it interesting for everyone to see the contrast in styles between the experienced players and the younger ones."

Novotna sheds a tear at her victory speech

The pity is that, while the players are doing their bit on the court, off court the promotion of the championships was not a conspicuous success. No more than half of the 18,000 seats at the Garden were full, while the matches were shown on the Madison Square Garden cable network, where only 68,000 tuned in to see Pierce and Hingis.

For years, the Women's Tennis Association has been claiming that women's tennis is about more than just Steffi Graf and Monica Seles. Now the promise has been fulfilled, but the authorities seem to have no idea how to make the most of it.

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GOLF

Montgomerie makes first move towards his American dream

John Hopkins feels that major success is imminent for the Scot after tasting victory in the US

EARLY in 1989 I placed a telephone call to a hotel in Portugal where Colin Montgomerie, who was then a 25-year-old in his second full season as a professional, was competing in a tournament. As he did, and still does, for that matter, Montgomerie talked and talked and talked.

There is no other golfer in the world who converses as articulately as Montgomerie and discussions around the family dining table in years gone by must have been quite animated, because Douglas Montgomerie, Colin's brother, and James, their father, can talk, too. Hind legs and donkeys come to mind.

The subject for some of our telephone conversation those years ago was whether Montgomerie, a middle-class, former public schoolboy, could cut the mustard among the more worldly-wise, if less expensively educated, professionals. "Ach yes," Montgomerie, not betraying a moment of self-doubt, said. He uses the word "ach", if there is such a word, in the way most Scots use the word "och". "I am tough enough. If I have had a soft middle-class upbringing, it will not stop me becoming a good golfer."

I put the telephone down, my head ringing with the feeling that Montgomerie would amount to more than just an occasional winner of tournaments in Europe. This view was confirmed when he won that tournament in Portugal by 11 strokes and he has continued the winning habit to an exceptional degree since. In the past month alone, for example, he has captured a fifth successive Order of Merit in Europe, which no one else has done. Nine days ago he won the Hassan Trophy in Rabat, Morocco, a silly, end-of-season bonanza for a few, the winner receiving a jewel-encrusted dagger.

Many pros suffer a setback after their initial success and, if they avoid that pitfall, then the longer their career the greater the chance of a slump. Montgomerie has had neither. He is the only golfer of the modern European era who has continued to improve as each year of his professional career passes. Winning the individual title at the World Cup at Kiawah Island, South Carolina, on Sunday marks another step forward in as much as it is the first time that Montgomerie has won an event in the United States.

The US has been a bogy for Montgomerie for no apparent reason. He likes the US, studied there and has a powerful and accurate game that is ideally suited to many of its courses. Before Sunday, though, he had never tasted victory, having been beaten in play-offs for two major championships and finished second or third in two more. On Sunday he laid the bogy in style, each of his past three rounds being 66, six under par.

Montgomerie has few of the fetishes that afflict modern golfers. He is not unduly concerned about his fitness and, by the standards of many players, he scarcely practises. The formula clearly works. In events at Slaley Hall in June and Druid's Glen in July, he can scarcely have played better. In between, he came second to Ernie Els in the US Open.

A few weeks ago Montgomerie decided not to commit himself to playing significantly more in the US next year. Mark McCormack, the agent, and Johnnie Miller, the television commentator and former Open champion, were two men who suggested that he was good enough to win major championships without leaving Europe.

Reassurances from knowledgeable men such as these may have been sufficient to boost Montgomerie's confidence, which, in turn, may be why he won at Kiawah Island last week. This victory could open the floodgates for Montgomerie and launch him on a new chapter of success. All that confidence he demonstrated down a crackling telephone line in 1989 may be about to be borne out.

Montgomerie with the World Cup trophy he won on Sunday

Behind him every step of the way

JOHN HOPKINS

meets a woman providing support in a man's world

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Gillot lends a sympathetic ear to the struggling Pottier

Of the 180 professional golfers in southern Spain who are competing for the right to play on the European Tour in 1998, Christophe Pottier, a 26-year-old Frenchman, is the one that is different. The person caddying for him, and inevitably a couple of yards behind him here at the PGA qualifying school in San Roque, is a woman, the only one fulfilling such a role in a world populated by men with weather-beaten faces and grass-stained trainers.

Cecile Gillot is a slim, vibrant 25-year-old who has lived with Pottier for seven years and caddies for him as often as she can spare the time from her English studies at the Sorbonne in Paris. She is slight, elf-like almost, and her small face framed by black hair is emphasised by the peak of her long, black cap and the burliness of Pottier.

"I have limited technical skills as a caddie," Gillot said. "I am not like Fanny Sunesson. I do not read greens or do yardages. He likes to do that sort of thing himself — it is part of his routine. But obviously I know Christophe well and I am concerned about him. He knows I care so much. He has said he can concentrate better when I am caddying for him.

"Because of my status, I can say things to him that no one else can say. A caddie who does not know him can quickly irritate him. He might say something like: 'OK, you have had two double-bogeys, you must fight now.' That is obvious and it is precisely the sort of thing that he does not want to hear."

There are those who believe that love, though it can often inspire, can also sometimes confuse. There is a line between supporting your partner in everything by being alongside and supporting from behind the ropes. Eimear Montgomerie is an example of the latter, as is Laura Norman, Greg's wife, and Brenna Cepelak, Nick Faldo's companion. Gillot, however, is of the same persuasion as Jarmo Sandelin's girlfriend, Linda Lundgren, and Jean Van de Velde's wife, Brigitte.

"My opinion is that it is very important for a woman to be there," Gillot said. "Jean [Van de Velde] would have achieved nothing if his wife had not done everything for him. She caddied for him for a while, organised his life off the course. Now she follows him every step of the way. She is on the course each day. I don't see how you can be in love with someone without wanting to share their passion all the time. If it is a part of their life, it is a part of your life."

Dealing with success is easy. "When Christophe plays well, there is nothing to say afterwards," she said. Dealing with failure is harder. Pottier has not played well in Spain. Rain and lightning have caused delays and the fourth round will be finished this morning, after which the cut will be made and the leading 70 will play one more round, if possible. Pottier will not be among them. At present, he is 17 over par, 26 strokes behind Robert-Jan Derksen, the tournament leader.

"It was no surprise," Gillot said, smiling. "We are trying not to kill ourselves. When you are plus nine after the first round, it is very difficult to concentrate for the rest of the week. I know a little technically. I know that this week his posture has been bad, he has the ball too far to the left, his stance is too narrow. He has bad days with his swing. We have to put this week into context and make sure we do not make the same mistakes next year.

'He has said that he can concentrate better when I am caddying for him'

"It is extremely exciting to caddie. In France there is a tradition of looking down at people who play sport. In my studies at the Sorbonne I come across a lot of pseudo-intellectuals and there is a suggestion in France that if you play sport you must be stupid.

"There was a good example of this when Pete Sampras was interviewed recently and he said that he played his best tennis when he did not think too much, when his mind was clear. The interviewer made it seem as though he thought Sampras meant that to play tennis well it helped to be stupid. That is a typical French attitude.

"French people probably don't understand why I want to caddie for Christophe. I don't care. I have nothing to prove to them. Golf is a game in which you question yourself all the time and you really get to know yourself. You have to have clear objectives and you must think about them again and again. Golf is very taxing mentally. I am studying for a PhD in English Studies and my thesis is on American civilisation. It is not intellectually frustrating for me to be on a golf course rather than at university. Golf is extremely exciting."

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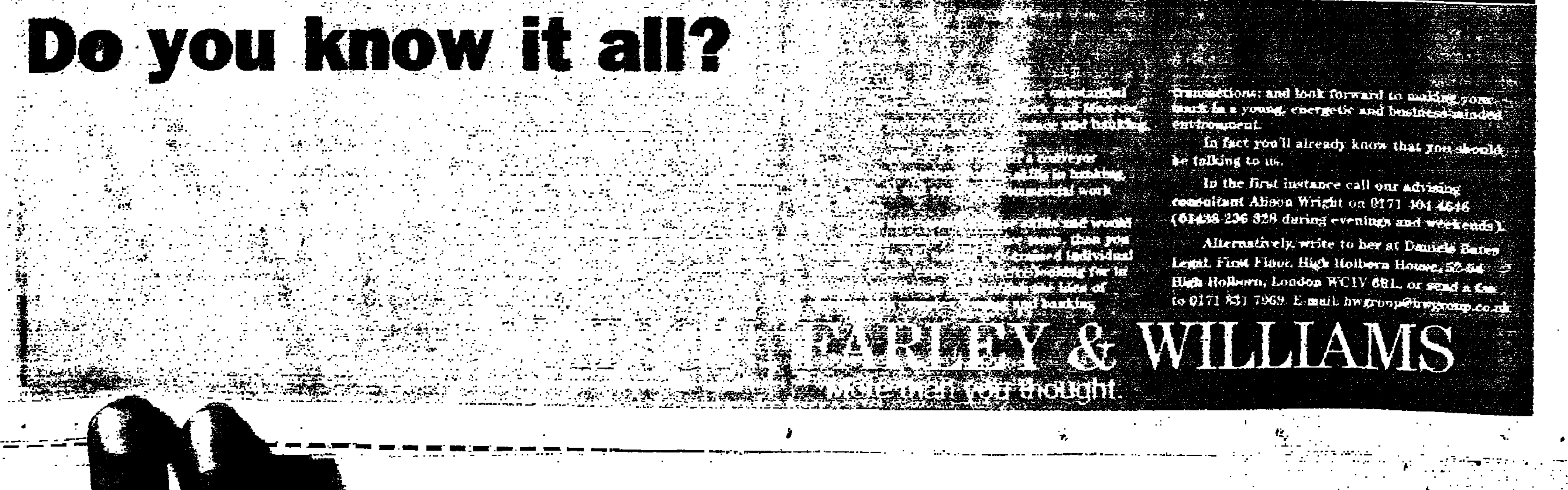

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RACING: HUNTINGDON STAGES MOUTH-WATERING CLASH BETWEEN THREE FAVOURITE CHASERS

Martha's Son to make champion return

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

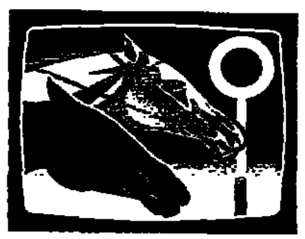
THE National Hunt routine, *which invariably* sees each Saturday providing another piece in the Cheltenham Festival jigsaw, is thrown gloriously out of kilter today when three of the country's most popular chasers clash in what should prove to be a memorable running of the Peterborough Chase at Huntingdon.

A normally quiet Tuesday will be *transformed for jump* enthusiasts as One Man, the dual King George VI Chase winner, drops back in trip to take on Martha's Son and Viking Flagship, who between them have won the Queen Mother Champion Chase and the Mumm Melling Chase at Aintree three times.

In a race which would grace Cheltenham or Aintree, One Man and Martha's Son are both officially rated 180 — 7lb clear of Viking Flagship. However, One Man would be my outsider of the three. The *Gordon Richards-trained* grey may be highly talented with a superb cruising speed, but he is also flawed. When it comes to a battle, as this race surely will in the closing stages, he is likely to be found wanting.

Despite a far-from-perfect preparation, Martha's Son beat Viking Flagship by three lengths at the Cheltenham Festival and by *more than* eight lengths at Aintree last season. Tim Forster, his circumspect trainer, was yesterday relatively hopeful of a bold showing from his stable star, who has won three times at the Fenland course. He is "nearly" 100 per cent for his return.

But is there any reason why the Festival form of last term should be reversed? Nicholson believes there is. "We have had a run — and last year we were running on unsuitable ground," he said. The soft ground and strong pace set by Mulligan at Exeter, along *with a stiff finish,* were ideal for Viking Flagship last time. But that was over 2¼ miles, as opposed to today's extended 2½ miles on good ground. **Martha's Son** just gets the vote in a race to savour.


TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

The Channel 4 cameras are covering two races at Worcester and the line-up for the Countryside Counts Worcester Novices' Chase (2.25) looks competitive. Grange Court *will relish the stamina test,* having won over an extended three miles at Towcester last time, but **Flying Gunner** was best of these over hurdles and loves the mud. He was badly hampered at the first fence when making his chasing debut 19 days ago. That run can be safely ignored and he has schooled well at home.

The Tramps Night Club of *Worcester Handicap Chase* (3.25) offers the Forster stable the chance of a double with **Poucher.** This progressive seven-year-old will be admirably suited by the near three-mile test and soft ground.

Back at Huntingdon, **Mister Blake** looks well weighted in the Normans Cross Handicap Chase (2.10) after a debut success over fences at Bangor. Course specialist Solo Gent and Coole Hill are the dangers.

Oi Mother will suited by the longer trip in the Hoechst Roussel Panacur EBF Mares Novices' Hurdle (2.40), but **Bessie Browne** could be the value. She was a staying-on fourth in a decent novice hurdle won by Cherrymore at Newbury and will appreciate stepping up in distance.

Spring Saint showed improved form when winning at Towcester nine days ago but he must have soft ground and this sharp two miles may not be ideal in the Wamdha Handicap Hurdle (3.40). By contrast, Wamdha has won five times over course and *distance but likes a fast surface.* **Bold Statement** would probably have won at Worcester but for a last-flight mistake and he can make amends here.

MARC ASPLAND

Martha's Son, the champion two-mile chaser, returns to action at Huntingdon today

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

HENNESSY COGNAC GOLD CUP

Newbury, November 29

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Tote
Suny Bay	5-1	4-1	7-2	10-3
Banjo	8-1	6-1	5-1	7-1
Djeddah	6-1	6-1	7-1	7-1
Time For A Run	7-1	7-1	8-1	7-1
Trying Again	12-1	10-1	9-1	12-1
Barton Bank	12-1	12-1	9-1	14-1
General Wolfe	10-1	14-1	10-1	10-1
Belmont King	14-1	16-1	16-1	20-1
Celtic Abbey	16-1	16-1	20-1	14-1
Eudipe	14-1	16-1	14-1	14-1
Indian Tracker	16-1	20-1	25-1	14-1
Avro Anson	25-1	25-1	20-1	20-1

THE Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup on Saturday promises to be a top-class renewal, with recent rain having appeased several trainers who had been reluctant to commit their horses to the contest. *Charlie Brooks has been the loudest critic of the* Newbury track, but even he is now "optimistic" that Suny Bay will be able to take his chance, although he will walk the course on Thursday before making a final decision.

Suny Bay leapt to the head of the Hennessy betting with an authoritative win on his reappearance in the Edward Hanmer Chase at Haydock last week. However, while he was undeniably impressive there, he will not be allowed to dominate so easily on Saturday, is best when fresh and has incurred a 4lb penalty. At 4-1, he makes little appeal.

Banjo has also earned a 4lb penalty for his recent Cheltenham win, but will find the Hennessy much more competitive and may bypass it in favour of the Welsh National, while Francois Doumen reports Djeddah to be in good form, but his chance would be compromised by soft going.

Time For A Run ran well to get within four lengths of Second Schedual over an inadequate trip at Naas earlier this month and remains fairly treated. However, being owned by the legendary Irish gambler, J P McManus, the bookmakers are taking few chances and offer a best-priced 8-1.

General Wolfe was unable to match Suny Bay on his reappearance at Haydock, but should have come on for the run, will be 5lb better off and will appreciate the slightly longer trip. At 14-1 with Hills, GENERAL WOLFE represents good each-way value.

HUNTINGDON

THUNDERER

1.10 Elite Governor
1.40 LETS BE FRANK (nap)
2.10 Mister Blake
2.40 Kentford Tina
3.10 Martha's Son
3.40 Tibetan

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.10 HOUGHTON SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,007: 3m 2f) (20 runners)

101	-254013	ELITE GOVERNOR 28 (F,G) (Western Solvents Ltd) N Lampard 8-12-0	R Dunwoody	83
102	6543365	KIPPANDUR 8 (G) (G Wiltshire) Mrs N Macauley 5-11-13	Mr A Wintle (7)	65
103	30/0304	ALIAS CHUBB 16 (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 6-11-5	R Guest	59
104	5P530-1	ITS GRAND 16 (G,S) (Mrs D Potter) W G M Turner 8-11-4	J Power (7)	84
105	10P-506	TOP SKIPPER 12 (G,S) (V Greenway) V Greenway 5-11-4	Mr J Tizzard (5)	82
106	00U2-30	CODE RED 8 (R Head) R Head 4-11-4	G Bradley	68
107	233530	MILZIG 12 (F) (J Joseph) J Joseph 8-11-3	J Goldstein (7)	94
108	/26PP-0	SINGLESOLE 18 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs P Sly) Mrs P Sly 12-11-0	W Marston	69
109	43064-4	VISCOUNT TULLY 5 (S) (C Jackson) C Jackson 12-11-0	R Thornton (3)	54
110	4P6-000	KILCARNE BAY 16 (G) (G Morris) P Bowen 7-10-13	N Williamson	59
111	-432050	BRIGHT SAPPHIRE 36 (B,F,G,S) (H James) J R Best 11-10-9	B McGann (7)	91
112	~~B4P43'~~	~~LISALEEN WREN 707 (Miss C S Padgett) G Woodward 8-10-8~~	~~D Verco~~	–
113	24-3453	JOKER JACK 8 (D,F,S) (R Dean) R Dean 12-10-7	X Aizpuru (5)	–
114	21/00-P	CANARY BLUE 8F (B,F) (P Hiatt) P Hiatt 6-10-4	E Husband (3)	–
115	0-400U	LIFE OF BRIAN 10 (J Whyte) J Whyte 6-10-4	Mr R Wakley (5)	80
116	65/UF0-	THE WEATHERMAN 213 (Mrs G Jessop) A Jessop 9-10-1	R Massey (5)	–
117	3U8UF3/	SPA KELLY 596 (J Pickering) J Pickering 9-10-0	S McNeill	–
118	*03-0055*	*BAYLORD PRINCE 14 (F,S) (Mrs J Ewer) J A Ewer 9-10-0*	*Sophie Mitchell (5)*	84
119	/00PP-6	MILLY LE MOSS 6 (R Eckley) R Eckley 8-10-0	L Cummins (5)	70
120	PP4P-PP	CUMBERLAND YOUTH 9 (Miss C Caroe) Miss C Caroe 6-10-0	D J Kavanagh (5)	–

Long handicap: Baylord Prince 9-9, Milly Le Moss 9-8, Cumberland Youth 9-5

BETTING: 4-1 Its Grand, 5-1 Alias Chubb, 6-1 Elite Governor, 8-1 Viscount Tully, 10-1 Code Red, 12-1 others

1996: MR FLUTTS 10-10-10 S McNeill (4-1 jt-fav) J Tuck 14 ran

1.40 HEALTH-SPA WATER NOVICES CHASE

(£3,394: 2m 4f 110yd) (13 runners)

201	/PR31/R	FATHER FORTUNE 16 (C,F,S) (P Townsley) Mrs P Townsley 9-11-9	Mr P Townsley	–
202	P/6P3/0	CLEVER REMARK 9 (G) (Mrs J Smith) J Old 8-11-5	M A Fitzgerald	100
203	.3/13-3	CRIMSON KING 11 (S) (S Sainsbury) T Forster 6-11-5	N Williamson	–
204	22142-3	DANTES CAVALIER 11 (F,S) (W Dose) D Gandolfo 7-11-5	R Dunwoody	102
205	*515/4P2-*	*DONNINGTON 221 (F,G) (B Stewart-Brown) O Sherwood 7-11-5*	*J A McCarthy*	–
206	4PP-P2P	HIGHLAND FLAME 6 (A Blackmore) A Blackmore 8-11-5	P Henley (3)	90
207	0/50-63	JAVELIN COOL 13 (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 6-11-5	R Guest	–
208	11512-3	LETS BE FRANK 20 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs M Stobart) N Chance 6-11-5	G Bradley	99
209	52124-2	LORD ROOBLE 15 (BF,D,G) (Findon Partnership) J Gifford 6-11-5	P Hide	100
210	121.32-	RAMALLAH 341 (D,G,S) (Maidens Green Pines) Miss H Knight 8-11-5	J F Titley	95
211	00/06-0	RISING MAN 20 (B Naylor) J Gifford 6-11-5	L Aspell (3)	–
212	U51-	MANVER 268P (S) (Mrs C Hanbury) A Turnell 5-11-4	M Griffiths (7)	–
213	*0/3225-*	*NAHLA 188 (S) (Sale Sty) R Phillips 7-11-0*	S McNeill	–

BETTING: 3-1 Donnington, 4-1 Crimson King, 6-1 Dantes Cavalier, 7-1 Lets Be Frank, Lord Rooble, 8-1 others

1996: MISTER DRUM 7-11-5 W Marston (11-4) M Wilkinson 14 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
J Fanshawe	5	8	62.5	L Cummins	3	3	100.0
D Nicholson	15	51	29.4	R Thornton	3	6	50.0
D Gandolfo	9	31	25.8	P Hide	17	62	27.4
J Old	3	12	25.0	N Williamson	16	68	23.5
Mrs S Smith	5	21	23.8	S McNeill	12	64	18.8

2.10 NORMANS CROSS HANDICAP CHASE

C4

(£3,023: 3m) (10 runners)

301	*36P-112*	*SOLO GENT 20 (CD,F,G,S) (Eastbury Racing Club) A P Jones 8-11-13*	S McNeill	117
302	34242-1	COOLE HILL 12 (G) (B Winfield & J Potter) D Nicholson 6-11-11	A Maguire	111
303	15PP1-3	OCEAN LEADER 14 (D,F,G) (Sir Peter Gibbings) Mrs D Haine 10-11-10	J F Titley	90
304	F224/U-	PERSIAN SWORD 282 (G,S) (Ford Farm Racing) D Nicholson 11-11-8	Mr R Burton (7)	–
305	1222-F4	HIGH LEARIE 10 (S) (E Harvey) A H Harvey 7-11-2	J A McCarthy	118
306	F43163-	NORTHERN VILLAGE 199P (F) (L Dace) L A Dace 10-11-1	L Aspell (3)	107
307	4300P-1	MISTER BLAKE 25 (D,F,G) (W Edwards) R Lee 7-10-10	G Hogan (3)	111
308	5621044	JIM VALENTINE 29 (F,G,S) (Mrs T Pritchard) Dr P Pritchard 11-10-9	Dr P Pritchard	126
309	4-3242U	CYRILL HENRY 17 (F,G) (Champagne and Dreams Pins) S Earle 8-10-4	P Holley	123
310	P3-0345	RYTON RUN 6 (C,D,F,G) (W Odell) Mrs S Odell 12-10-0	Mr S Durack (5)	97

Long handicap: Ryton Run 9-6.

BETTING: 15-8 Coole Hill, 4-1 Mister Blake, 6-1 Solo Gent, 7-1 Persian Sword, 8-1 High Learie, 10-1 Ocean Leader, 12-1 Cyrill Henry, 14-1 others.

1996: SOLO GENT 7-11-6 S McNeill (7-2) A P Jones 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Solo Gent 14l 2nd of 6 to Monymoss in handicap chase at Kempton (3m, good to firm) with High Learie (6lb better off) fell. Coole Hill beat Naughty Future 1½l in 9-runner handicap chase at Market Rasen (3m 1f, good). Ocean Leader beaten a distance last of 3 to Persian View in handicap chase at Ludlow (3m, good); previously beat Karenastino ½l in 8-runner novice handicap chase at Market Rasen (3m 1f, good to firm). Persian Sword unseated rider in handicap chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft), previously 7¾l 4th of 5 to Dark Oak in handicap chase at Market Rasen (2m 4f, good to soft). High Learie 15l last of 4 to Shining Light in handicap chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). *Northern Village 29l 6th of 14 to Struggles Glory in novice hunter* chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good to firm); previously beat Avostar ¾l in 8-runner hunter chase at Towcester (3m 1f, good to firm). Mister Blake beat Eternal City 4l in 10-runner handicap chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, good). Jim Valentine 39l 4th of 5 to Parliamentarian in handicap chase at Towcester (2m 110yd, good to firm). Cyrill Henry unseated rider in handicap chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good); previously 3½l 2nd of 4 to Its Unbelievable in conditional jockeys handicap chase at Fakenham (3m 110yd, good). Ryton Run beaten a distance 5th of 8 to Seahawk Retriever in amateurs handicap chase at Hereford (2m 3f, good to soft), previously 32l 4th of 10 to Dream Leader in handicap chase 0-105 at Taunton (3m, good)

SOLO GENT, a course specialist, can shrug off top weight

2.40 HOECHST EBF MARES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES *HURDLE* (£2,460: 2m 5f 110yd) (10 runners)

C4

401	42-11	OI MOTHER 19 (G,S) (A Murphy & N Skelton) D Nicholson 5-11-5	A Maguire	100
402	264-5	ARDENBAR 15 (T Wyatt) J W Payne 5-10-12	N Williamson	80
403	314-44	BESSIE BROWNE 13 (G) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 5-10-12	R Thornton (3)	114
404	P	COTTAGE BAY 13 (W Bethell) W Bethell 5-10-12	R Supple	–
405	1430/0-	KENTFORD TINA 377 (G) (D Barn) J Mullins 6-10-12	R Guest	–
406	0345/0-	MADAM MUCK 354 (Co-optimists) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-12	J Goldstein (7)	62
407	034/0-0	SECOND FIDDLE 6 (O Brennan) O Brennan 7-10-12	M Brennan	70
408	040-6	SWEET LITTLE BRIAR 10 (G Bravery) G Bravery 6-10-12	R Dunwoody	86
409	0-00	TAWNY WARBLER 19 (Mrs P Robeson) Mrs P Robeson 5-10-12	J A McCarthy	70
410	111-	TEMPESTUOUS LADY 240P (F,S) (Mrs E Roberts) N Henderson 6-10-12	M Fitzgerald	–

BETTING: 13-8 Tempestuous Lady, 9-4 Oi Mother, 7-2 Bessie Browne, 10-1 Madam Muck, 16-1 others.

1996: GAYE FAME 5-10-12 S McNeill (9-4) K Bailey 10 ran

FORM FOCUS *Oi Mother beat Hurricane Jane ½l in 10-runner mares novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to soft); previously beat Kerry's Oats 8l in 17-runner nat hunt flat race at Worcester (2m, good).* Ardenbar 40l 5th of 9 to Mesa Verde in maiden hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, good to soft), previously 21l 4th of 11 to Boots Madden in nat hunt flat race at Fakenham (2m, good). Bessie Browne 8¾l 4th of 12 to Cherrymore in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good), previously 17l 4th of 18 to Galfax in nat hunt flat race at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good). Kentford Tina 13l 9th of 17 to Aerion in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). Madam Muck 51l 10th of 16 to Boots Madden in novice hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft); previously 10l 5th of 18 to Wynyard Lady in nat hunt flat race at Bangor (2m 1f, good). *Second Fiddle 27l 8th of 14 to Hill Farm Blues in mares novice hurdle at Haydock* (2m, good). Sweet Little Briar 36l 6th of 13 to Better Offer in novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to firm). Tawny Warbler 23l 7th of 9 to Quistaquay in mares novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to soft).

OI MOTHER should relish this step up in trip and can complete a treble

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Timekeeper's speed rating

3.10 PETERBOROUGH CHASE

C4

(Grade II: £18,038: 2m 4f 110yd) (6 runners)

501	/2/F11-	MARTHA'S SON 235 (CD,F,G,S) (M Ward-Thomas) T Forster 10-11-10	R Farrant	185
502	1128P-1	*ONE MAN* 24 (D,F,G,S) (J Hales) G Richards 9-11-10	R Dunwoody	180
503	41333-1	VIKING FLAGSHIP 21 (D,F,G,S) (Roach Foods) D Nicholson 10-11-10	A Maguire	195
504	/42/55-	CAMITROV 248 (D,S) (J Lewis) D Nicholson 7-11-1	R Thornton	–
505	F3U2-2F	THE LAST FLING 6 (D,F,G,S) (M Jackson) Mrs S Smith 7-11-1	R Guest	167
506	3/3F1F-	THEMOREYOUKNOW 180 (G) (M Weston) M Weston 8-11-1	Mr M Harris	–

BETTING: 11-8 Martha's Son, 15-8 One Man, 2-1 Viking Flagship, 20-1 The Last Fling, 50-1 others

1996: DUBLIN FLYER 10-11-1 B Powell (4-9 fav) T Forster 6 ran

FORM FOCUS *Martha's Son beat Strong Promise 5l in grade I 4-runner chase at Aintree (2m 4f, good) with Viking Flagship (levels) 8½l 3rd;* previously beat Ask Tom 2½l in 6-runner grade I chase at Cheltenham (2m, good to firm) with Viking Flagship (levels) 3l 3rd. One Man beat Barton Bank 2½l in 4-runner grade II chase at Wetherby (3m 1f, good to firm). Viking Flagship beat Mulligan 5l in 6-runner grade II handicap chase at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft). Camitrov 45l 5th of 7 to Frickley in handicap chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, good). The Last Fling fell in handicap chase at Haydock (3m, good); previously 6l 2nd of 7 to Callisoe Bay in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, soft). Themoreyouknow fell in novice chase at Uttoxeter (3m 2f, good to firm)

MARTHA'S SON will be hard to beat if fully wound up for his reappearance

3.40 WAMDHA HANDICAP HURDLE

C4

(£5,321: 2m 110yd) (10 runners)

601	1/440-P	TIBETAN 17 (D,S) (Mrs W Brown) Lady Herries 5-12-0	R Dunwoody	119
602	12324-2	NEW INN 8 (D,F) (I Stewart) S Gollings 5-11-9	Mr S Durack (5)	129
603	41212-3	BARFORD SOVEREIGN 16 (C,D,F) (Barford II) J Fanshawe 5-11-9	M Fitzgerald	133
604	15P-0	LEAR JET 38 (D,F) (Godolphin Racing Partnership) Bob Jones 4-11-8	G Bradley	109
605	51211-2	BOLD STATEMENT 13 (BF,D,F,G,S) (Countess Cadogan) T Forster 5-11-3	N Williamson	131
606	362-063	PRIZEFIGHTER 5 (CD,F) (J Milton) B Llewellyn 6-11-3	Mr J L Llewellyn	105
607	P/2PP-1	SPRING SAINT 9 (D,G,S) (R & C Stainer) Simon Earle 8-10-11	R Thornton (3)	130
608	*/22424-*	*DEAR DO 273 (D,G,S) (C Edwards) N Henderson 10-10-0*	*L Vickers (7)*	–
609	-04021F	WAMDHA 35 (BF,CD,F,G,S) (T Pryke) K Morgan 7-10-0	A Maguire	131
610	00-452	BARTHOLOMEW FAIR 10 (D Bowkett) C Dwyer 6-10-0	R Farrant	108

Long handicap: Wamdha 9-13, Bartholomew Fair 9-11

BETTING: 5-2 Bold Statement, 5-1 Barford Sovereign, Bartholomew Fair, Wamdha, 8-1 Spring Saint, 10-1 others

1996: TENEIN 5-12-0 A P McCoy (8-13 fav) T Forster 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Tibetan pulled up in handicap hurdle won by Marello at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). New Inn 7l 2nd of 5 to Poller's Gale in handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft). Barford Sovereign 9½l 3rd of 7 to Star Market in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, good). Lear Jet 41l 7th of 9 to Flying Fiddler in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good). Bold Statement ½l 2nd of 7 to Miss Roberto in handicap hurdle at Worcester (2m, good) with Prizefighter (9lb better off) 37l 6th. Prizefighter 11l 3rd of 4 to Cool Gunner in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to soft). Spring Saint beat New Leaf ¾l in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, good). Dear Do 11l 4th of 8 *to Scottish Bambi in handicap chase at Leicester (2m 1f, good to soft). Wamdha fell in handicap* hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good), previously beat Star Market neck in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good). Bartholomew Fair 8l 2nd of 13 to Better Offer in novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to firm)

BOLD STATEMENT can continue his trainer's good record in this race

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ludlow

Going: good, good to soft on bends

12.50 (2m hdle) 1, **Final Stab** (W McFarland, 6-1); 2, Among Islands (20-1); 3, Albemine (7-1). Brighstone 6-4 fav. 16 ran. NR Haydown. Jollo 8l, 1¼l. C Dwyer. Tote £14.30; £4.30, £5.40, £2.30. DF £438.20. *Trio not won.* CSF £119.01.

1.20 (3m ch) 1, **Wandering Light** (R Johnson, 11-10 fav, Richard Evans's nap); 2, Clontoura (5-1); 3, Cool Runner (20-1). 11 ran. 2½l, 5l. T Forster. Tote £2.00; £1.40, £2.10, £4.50. DF £6.80. CSF £6.13.

1.50 (2m hdle) 1, **Beryllium** (A P McCoy, 6-5 fav); 2, Real Fire (15-2); 3, Heart (10-1). 12 ran. NR Todd. 1¼l, 6l. M Pipe. Tote £2.20; £1.10, £2.90, £2.60. DF £13.50. Trio £57.90. CSF £11.81. Tricast £66.00.

2.20 (3m 3f 110yd ch) 1, **Slideofhill** (P Carberry, 5-4 fav); 2, Mutual Agreement (5-1); 3, Ballyedward (8-1). 7 ran. 6l, 5l. J O'Neill. Tote £2.20; £1.60, £2.30. DF £4.30. CSF £8.16.

2.50 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, **Churchtown Glen** (C Maude, 6-1); 2, In The Blood (100-30); 3, Albermarle (11-10 fav). 8 ran. 2l, 2½l. S Brookshaw. Tote £5.80; £1.30, £1.60, £1.10. DF £13.40. CSF £24.68.

3.20 (2m ch) 1, **Get Real** (M A Fitzgerald, 9-2); 2, Royal Event (4-1); 3, Mamalane (9-1). Step On Eyre 11-8 fav. 7 ran. 11l, sh hd. N Henderson. Tote £5.10; £2.20, £1.80. DF £8.20. CSF £20.45.

3.50 (2m) 1, **Sunday Venture** (M A Fitzgerald, 6-1); 2, Miner's Bill (16-1); 3, *Castle Owen* (1-2 fav). 15 ran. Nk, 1½l. N Henderson. Tote £5.10; £1.10, £5.90, £1.10. DF £247.40. Trio £31.00. CSF £89.96.

Placepot: £128.90. Quadpot: £9.40

Catterick

Going: good, good to firm in places

12.40 (2m hdle) 1, **Opera Fan** (P Morris, 8-1); 2, Parson's Lodge (7-2); 3, Diamond Crown (7-2). Apdar 11-4 fav. 11 ran. 2½l, 1l. F Morgan. Tote £9.80; £2.80, £2.10, £1.50. DF £16.60. CSF £29.01. Tricast £103.22.

1.10 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, **Committed Schedule** (P Niven, 3-1); 2, Dorlin Castle (11-8 fav); 3, Clairabell (3-1). 11 ran. 2½l, 3l. G Richards. Tote £3.60; £1.20, £1.80, £2.50. *DF £5.70. Trio £2.70.* CSF £7.04.

1.40 (2m 3f hdle) 1, **Superpride** (P Niven, 2-1 fav); 2, House Of Dreams (9-2); 3, Tip It In (7-1). 7 ran. 1½l, 1½l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote £2.80; £2.30, £3.10. DF £4.00. CSF £11.26.

2.10 (2m ch) 1, **Prince Of Saints** (R Garritty, 15-8 fav); 2, Last Try (100-30); 3, Paparazzo (100-30). 10 ran. NR Appearance Money. 5l, 4l. M Hammond. Tote £3.70; £1.90, £1.30, £1.60. DF £7.50. CSF £8.59. Tricast £18.24.

2.40 (2m hdle) 1, **Flying North** (P Niven, 4-5 fav; Thunderer's nap); 2, Jave Red (11-1); 3, Primitive Heart (100-1). 21 ran. 8l, 1½l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote £1.80; £1.10, £4.50, £14.80. DF £8.60. CSF £12.40. Trio £338.10.

3.10 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, **Billsbrook** (P Niven, 4-1 jt-fav); 2, Gold Pigeon (7-1); 3, Karenastino (9-2). Gale Ahead 4-1 jt-fav. 8 ran. 5l, 24l. Miss R Brewis. Tote £5.50; £2.50, £1.60, £1.40. DF £12.40. CSF £29.43.

3.40 (2m) 1, **Over The Beck** (E Callaghan, 5-2 fav); 2, Polar King (11-4); 3, Orange Imp (11-4). 11 ran. 3½l, ¾l. J Jefferson. Tote £3.10; £1.10, £1.90, £2.10. DF £8.90. Trio £3.70. CSF £10.53.

Jackpot: £5,977.20.

Placepot: £25.70. Quadpot: £15.80.

Southwell

Going: standard

12.00 (1m) 1, **Godmersham Park** (G Parkin, 12-1); 2, Legal Issue (7-4 fav); 3, Zalotto (5-1). 14 ran. NR Domino Flyer, Jimjareer. ½l, 1½l. P Felgate. Tote £16.50; £6.40, £1.10, £1.50. DF £27.40. CSF £35.35. Tricast £129.08.

12.30 (6f) 1, **Malha** (L Charnock, 5-1); 2, Deerly (25-1); 3, Southern Dominion (5-1); 4, Superapparos (20-1). *Theatre Magic* 7-2 fav. 16 ran. 2l, nk. T Barron. Tote £7.60; £2.10, £16.70, £1.60, £7.50. DF £178.20. CSF £134.64. *Tricast* £641.10. Trio £245.90.

1.00 (1m 3f) 1, **Aeolina** (D McKeown, 3-1 fav); 2, Raed (6-1); 3, Widmoor (10-1). 16 ran. ½l, 3l. S Kettlewell. Tote £4.40; £2.80, £2.50, £4.30. DF £16.00. CSF £22.59.

1.30 (6f) 1, **Middle East** (Kim Hart, 5-2 fav); 2, Fayik (7-2); 3, Palo Blanco (6-1); 4, Sylvan Dancer (16-1). 16 ran. ½l, 3½l. T Barron. *Tote £4.90; £1.60, £1.70, £3.00, £4.60.* DF £15.20. CSF £12.59. Tricast £56.00.

2.00 (1m) 1, **Democrat** (G Duffield, 1-2 fav); 2, Molly Music (10-1); 3, Dancing Destiny (20-1); 4, Sea Spouse (12-1). 16 ran. 4l, nk. M Prescott. Tote £1.60; £1.10, £2.40, £9.70, £2.90. DF £11.40. Trio £285.10. CSF £8.21. Tricast £90.55.

2.30 (*1m*) 1, **Double Edged** (G Duffield, 2-5 fav); 2, Macamadas (9-2); 3, Naked Oat (16-1). 8 ran. 1l, nk. M Johnston. Tote £1.50; £1.10, £1.60, £1.50. DF £4.00. CSF £3.49.

3.00 (1m) 1, **Lady Eil** (J Stack, 6-1); 2, Sharp Monkey (20-1); 3, Bunnies Own (14-1). Dance To The Beat 11-10 fav. 16 ran. ¾l, 3l. B Smart. Tote £8.40; £2.30, £6.70, £16.40. DF £138.70. CSF £150.14. Trio £231.20.

3.30 (1m 6f) 1, **Tol Tol** (Mrs D Arbuthnot, 6-1); 2, Edan Heights (8-1); 3, Pharly Dancer (9-4 fav). 13 ran. 3l, 2l. D Arbuthnot. Tote £6.70; £1.80, £3.20, £1.50. DF £52.10. Trio £71.70. CSF £56.10. Tricast £136.46.

Placepot: £10.70. Quadpot: £6.00.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Three Farthings
(2.55 Worcester)

The stoutly bred Three Farthings won over two miles last season, but should relish today's longer trip. Suited by soft ground. Jim Old's runner looks fairly handicapped on his seasonal reappearance.

Next Best: Flying Gunner
(2.25 Worcester)

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WORCESTER

THUNDERER

1.25 Pekay. 1.55 Dancetillyoudrop. 2.25 Eulogy. 2.55 Tompetoo. 3.25 Poucher. 3.55 Saxon Duke.

Timekeeper's top rating:
3.25 FULL OF BOUNCE.

GOING: SOFT (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.25 UK RACING RACING SADDLERS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,408: 2m) (11 runners)

1	0	BARTON GREEN 13 S Brookshaw 6-10-12	C Maude	–
2	/5U-	FRYS NO FOOL 270 (D,S) J Old 7-10-12	C Llewellyn	95
3	1-	HOLLOA AWAY 199 (D,S) T Forster 5-10-12	S Wynne	–
4	*5*	*IAMUS 54 (BF) D Nicholson 4-10-12*	R Johnson	98
5	0	NEGATIVE EQUITY 10 A Turnell 5-10-12	L Harvey	88
6		PEKAY 31F M Pipe 4-10-12	A P McCoy	–
7	50-	QUESTAN 313 M Pipe 5-10-12	G Supple (5)	80
8	5-	COLD FEET 244 C Mitchell 6-10-7	B Powell	–
9	P	DAFFODIL EXPRESS 13 M Ryan 4-10-7	J Ryan	–
10	46	GALACIA 33 R Alner 5-10-7	N Willmington (7)	83
11	U60-	VITA NUOVA 204 C M Hicks 6-10-7	W McFarland	63

2-1 Iamus, 5-2 Pekay, 3-1 Holloa Away, 8-1 Frys No Fool, 14-1 Questan, 16-1 Barton Green, Negative Equity, Galacia, 25-1 others

1.55 SEVERN VALLEY CATERING NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,126: 2m 4f 110yd) (9)

1	140-	SLEETMORE GALE 283 (F,G) T McGovern 7-11-10	D Bridgwater	95
2	2-3F	DANCETILLYOUDROP 8 (S) P Nicholls 6-11-10	T J Murphy	–
3	51-4	WHO AM I 20 (CD,S) R Alner 7-11-6	A Thornton	108
4	UP-1	MYSTIC COURT 19 (S) A Turnell 6-10-8	C Rae (7)	74
5	00P-	GREENFIELD GEORGE 283 (S) P Hobbs 6-10-8	G Tormey	–
6	4RP4	TOUCH SILVER 7 (S) H Manners 7-10-6	S Curran	–
7	PU0-	GOSSYMOSS 271 (D,F) A Streeter 8-10-6	T Eley	81
8	/0-0	BARRISTERS BOY 13 J Old 7-10-2	C Llewellyn	–
9	3-334	CROCKHAMOHILL 16 K Bridgwater 6-10-0	R Bellamy	80

9-4 Mystic Court, 9-2 Dancetillyoudrop, Who Am I, Sleetmore Gale, 9-1 others

2.25 COUNTRYSIDE COUNTS NOVICES CHASE (Grade II, £11,820: 2m 7f 110yd) (9)

C4

1	*4-11*	*EDGEMOOR PRINCE 25 (F,G,S) P Hobbs 6-11-1*	A P McCoy	133
2	F0-1	EULOGY 24 (G) R Rowe 7-11-1	D Bridgwater	120
3	15-5	FLYING GUNNER 19 (S) D Nicholson 6-11-1	R Johnson	103
4	-5U1	GRANGE COURT 9 (G,S) I Williams 7-11-1	B Powell	89
5	11-4	MAHLER 13 (G,S) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-1	C Maude	100
6	-1F1	MENESONIC 6 (G,S) R Alner 7-11-1	A Thornton	112
7	412	OTTOWA 567 (BF,G,S) P Nicholls 7-11-1	T J Murphy	–
8	35-2	SPACEAGE GOLD 10 (F) J Old 8-11-1	C Llewellyn	–
9	*1-5U*	*WAYWARD KING 6 (G,S) R Hodges 5-10-13*	*T Dascombe*	–

2-1 Edgemoor Prince, 4-1 Eulogy, Flying Gunner, 7-1 Grange Court, 8-1 others

FORM FOCUS Edgemoor Prince beat Golden Hello 2½l in 9-runner handicap chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, good). Eulogy beat Amah Sun [illegible] novice chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, good). Flying Gunner 6l 5th of 6 to *Fortunes Course in handicap chase at Towcester* (3m 1f, good to soft). Grange Court beat See Enough 3½l in 9-runner novice chase at Towcester (2m 1f, good). Mahler beaten a distance last of 4 to Cooper Boy in novice chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good to firm), previously beat Morpheus 1l in 18-runner novice handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m 4f, good). Menesonic beat Fair Society beaten a distance in 6-runner novice chase at Kempton (3m, good to soft) with Wayward King (6th) unseated rider. Ottowa 2½l 2nd of 8 to Marine Society in handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 6f, good to soft).

EDGEMOOR PRINCE looks a smart recruit to chasing and can improve

2.55 CARMELA AND JOHNS SILVER WEDDING HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,345: 2m 4f) (7)

1	/50-	SESAME SEED 258 (D,G,S) N Henderson 9-11-11	J Kavanagh	112
2	1P0/	TUSCANY HIGHWAY 594 (D,S) Mrs J Pitman 8-11-7	D Leahy	–
3	221-	THREE FARTHINGS 298 (S) J Old 7-11-1	C Llewellyn	127
4	164-	TOMPETOO 283 (S) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-13	C Maude	129
5	1F-2	SEYMOURSWIFT 11 (S) D Gandolfo 7-10-10	G Upton	138
6	22-5	DRUM BATTLE 15 (F) W G M Turner 5-10-1	R Greene	106
7	4F65	PRUSSIA 12 (CD,F) W Clay 6-10-0	G Tormey	118

15-8 Three Farthings, 5-2 Seymourswift, 4-1 Tompetoo, 7-1 Sesame Seed, 10-1 Drum Battle, Prussia, 14-1 Tuscany Highway.

3.25 TRAMPS NIGHT CLUB HANDICAP CHASE (£3,678: 2m 7f 110yd) (9)

C4

1	PPP/	EDIMBOURG 570 (CD,F,G,S) P Hobbs 11-11-12	G Tormey	–
2	131-	POUCHER 281 (S) T Forster 7-11-11	S Wynne	126
3	052-	BOB DEVANI 253 (G,S) T George 11-11-6	R Johnson	–
4	3-6F	FULL OF BOUNCE 5 (S) R Hodges 6-11-3	T Dascombe	132
5	200-	BIG BEN DUN 199 (CD,F,G,S) E L James 11-11-2	J Kavanagh	121
6	5655	BEATSON 9 (F,G,S) R Buckler 8-11-1	B Powell	129
7	1FP-	SOPHIE MAY 270 (B,F,S) R Curtis 6-10-7	D Morris	–
8	VP-	MAREMMA GALE 411 (B,D,F,G) N Mitchell 9-10-6	C Llewellyn	–
9	F0/0	SUPER MALT 12 (B,F,G,S) B Meehan 9-10-0	G Upton	–

3-1 Poucher, 4-1 Full Of Bounce, 11-2 Beatson, Sophie May, 13-2 Bob Devani, Big Ben Dun, 10-1 Super Malt, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS Edimbourg pulled up in chase at Warwick (3m 2f, good to firm). Poucher beat Alice Smith 14l in handicap chase at Hereford (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). Bob Devani 1l 2nd of 12 to Trench Hill Lass in handicap chase at Down Royal (2m 4f, good to soft). Full Of Bounce fell in handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). Big Ben Dun beaten a distance last of 7 to Miss Orchin in handicap chase at Warwick (3m 2f, good). Beatson 36l 5th of 8 to Manor *Mieo in handicap chase at Cheltenham* (2m 4f 110yd, good). Sophie May pulled up in novice handicap chase at Newbury (3m, soft). Super Malt 37l 8th to Dream Leader in handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good).

POUCHER, progressive last season, can make a winning return

3.55 JULIAN LEIGH, REDENHAM PARK STUD NOVICES HURDLE (£2,565: 3m) (14)

1	30-1	DANGER FLYNN 26 (D,G) Mrs P Sly 7-11-4	W Marston	100
2	P-F1	TORCH VERT 10 (V,G) M Pipe 5-11-4	A P McCoy	132
3	32/3	ABINGER 9 Miss M Rowland 5-10-12	P Midgley (5)	96
4	0P-P	ANALOGUE 6 R Eckley 5-10-12	V Slattery	–
5	/20-	ARMATEUR 220 J McConnochie 9-10-12	D Leahy	100
6	F-UP	CLODEEVER BOY 13 M Sheppard 7-10-12	B Powell	–
7	/P-4	CORALETTE 14 S Brookshaw 7-10-12	Miss H Brookshaw (7)	88
8		EMTEC SOMAIREE S Brookshaw 5-10-12	S Wynne	–
9	5-25	JOHNNY-K 45 (BF,S) D Nicholson 6-10-12	R Johnson	98
10	1-4	RAMBLING SAM 58 (D,S) G Balding 5-10-12	J Frost	101
11	10/F	SAXON DUKE 17 (S) P Hobbs 6-10-12	G Tormey	110
12	31-P	DONNRUA 91 (D,S) F Jordan 6-10-7	T Eley	–
13	-065	FLASH CHICK 6 T Morton 8-10-7	C Llewellyn	–
14	P3-5	FORTYTWO DEE 9 N Smith 7-10-7	M Sharratt	–

2-1 Torch Vert, 3-1 Danger Flynn, 11-2 Rambling Sam, 7-1 Johnny-K, 8-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Nicholson, 29 winners from 94 runners, 30.9%; M Pipe, 48 from 158, 30.4%; P Nicholls, 15 from 60, 25.0%; P Hobbs, 27 from 131, 20.6%; G Balding, 18 from 98, 18.4%.

JOCKEYS: A McCoy, 47 winners from 167 rides, 28.1%; D Bridgwater, 25 from 143, 17.5%; D Morris, 7 from 43, 16.3%; R Johnson, 14 from 87, 16.1%; C Llewellyn, 24 from 151, 15.9%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Huntingdon: 1.10 Canary Blue. Lingfield Park 12.05 Dancing Feather, Magazine Gap. 12.35 Good Reputation, Northern Saga, Signed And Sealed. 1.35 Acharne. 3.05 Illegally Yours. 3.35 Tremplin.

LINGFIELD

THUNDERER

12.05 Gold Lance. 12.35 Another Monk. 1.05 Kass Alhawa. 1.35 Running Stag. 2.05 Kafil. 2.35 Ornamental. 3.05 Be True. 3.35 Alfahaal.

GOING: STANDARD
DRAW. 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

12.05 FAUCETS HANDICAP (£2,157: 1m 2f) (14)

1	8000	MR PARADISE 15 (F,S) R Cowell 3-10-0	W Ryan 11
2	-032	GROOMS GOLD 8 (D,F) P Harris 5-9-11	A Culhane 3
3	3006	DANCING FEATHER 29 (B) B Hills 3-9-9	R Cochrane 6
4	0006	CAPTAIN'S DAY 15 (CD) H Collingridge 5-9-6	G Faulkner (5) 10
5	0000	TEMPTRESS 10 (D,F,S) J L Harris 4-9-4	Dean McKeown 5
6	0451	MULTI FRANCHISE 12 (CD,F) R Flower 4-9-3	A Clark 9
7	0200	MAGAZINE GAP 12 (V) Pat Mitchell 4-9-0	Amanda Sanders 4
8	-506	PRIX DE CLERMONT 12 G Lewis 3-8-13	D Denby (7) 2
9	1311	GOLD LANCE 10J (F,G) R D Sullivan 4-8-11	S Sanders 8
10	0333	OOZLEM 49 (B,C,F,G) L Montague Hall 8-8-10	M Harfield (7) 7
11	0026	JUBILEE SCHOLAR 22 (B) G L Moore 4-8-8	F Norton 12
12	0-00	NARBONNE 15 (G) B McMath 6-8-7	M Tebbutt 13
13	4600	RUNIC SYMBOL 49 (D,F) M Blanshard 6-8-5	Dale Gibson 1
14	0502	TAEL OF SILVER 22 (F,G) A Bailey 5-8-2	D Wright 14

3-1 Gold Lance, 4-1 Multi Franchise, Dancing Feather, Grooms Gold, 9-1 others

12.35 FAUCETS HANDICAP (£1,944: 2m) (11)

1	5206	DURHAM 15 (B,F,G) G L Moore 6-10-0	S Whitworth 8
2	3024	PADAUK 15 M Haynes 3-9-3	D Biggs 11
3	1150	AZTEC FLYER 38 (B,D,F,S) C Brittain 4-8-13	W Ryan 2
4	8405	GOOD REPUTATION 15 (B) B Hills 3-8-12	R Cochrane 4
5	0000	NORTHERN SAGA 12 (B) C Drew 4-8-9	K Hodgson 3
6	0001	NOTATION 8 D Chapman 3-8-8 (5ex)	A Culhane 9
7	3005	ROMALITO 74J (F) M Blanshard 7-8-6	Dale Gibson 1
8	2000	STRAT'S LEGACY 55 (C,F) D Arbuthnot 10-8-4	S Carson (7) 10
9	0033	HIPPIOS 8 S Dow 3-8-3	P Doe (7) 5
10	4000	SIGNED AND SEALED 15 (B) C Cyzer 3-8-1	D O'Shea 6
11	D4/2	ANOTHER MONK 7 R Ingram 6-7-10	F Norton 7

7-2 Aztec Flyer, 9-2 Padauk, 11-2 Notation, 6-1 Durham, Romalito, 8-1 others

1.05 FAUCETS HANDICAP (£2,146: 1m 2f) (13)

1	0620	MISSILE TOE 21 (F) D Morris 4-9-13	N Day 2
2	*6605*	*CONFRONTER 15 (C,F,G,S) S Dow 8-9-10*	W Ryan 12
3	0050	ARZANI 22 (CD,G) D Cosgrove 6-9-8	M Rimmer 4
4	0080	FANTASY GIRL 25 J Dunlop 3-9-4	S Sanders 6
5	2023	GUESSTIMATION 12 (D,F,G,S) J Pearce 8-9-4	M Wigham 8
6	50-6	ROWLANDSONS CHARM 12 (V,C) B Sanders 4-9-3	A Clark 10
7	0002	GOLD CLIPPER 12 M Ryan 3-9-0	D Biggs 13
8	2106	THE GREEN GREY 15 (F) W Muir 3-8-13	Jo Hunnam (5) 9
9	6643	WITHOUT FRIENDS 33 (F,G,S) J F-Heyes 3-8-10	A Whelan (3) 5
10	*/002*	*SOUTHERN MEMORIES 34 (F,G) W Musson 7-8-8*	D O'Shea 7
11	0285	PROTARAS BAY 19 P Gilligan 3-8-7	Dean McKeown 3
12	0000	ILANDRA 8 G L Moore 5-8-6	Dale Gibson 1
13	2424	KASS ALHAWA 19 (F,G) D Chapman 4-8-4	A Culhane 11

9-2 Guesstimation, 6-1 Fantasy Girl, 7-1 Confronter, Gold Clipper, 8-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Prescott, 25 winners from 115 runners, 21.7%; Lord Huntingdon, 49 from 242, 20.2%; M Johnston, 58 from 300, 19.3%; R Armstrong, 17 from 92, 18.5%; P Harris, 15 from 84, 17.9%.

JOCKEYS: D McKeown, 22 winners from 127 rides, 17.3%; R Cochrane, 68 from 403, 16.9%; W Ryan, 33 from 203, 16.3%; S Whitworth, 40 from 287, 13.9%; M Wigham, 18 from 137, 13.1%; A Clark, 59 from 498, 11.8%.

1.35 FAUCETS FOR GROHE WATER CENTRES CONDITIONS STAKES (£3,388: 1m 2f) (6)

1	4424	RUNNING STAG 62 (CD) P Mitchell 3-9-1	A Clark 1
2	4450	ACHARNE 29 (E,S) C Brittain 4-9-0	W Ryan 6
3	26-0	KOMREYEV DANCER 10 (D,F,G) A Bailey 5-9-0	K Hodgson 5
4	0251	SEA DANZIG 19 (CD,F) J Bridger 4-9-0	R Cochrane 3
5	00	JOLI FLYERS 32 M Hames 3-8-10	D Biggs 2
6	0252	UNCONDITIONAL LOVE 18 (F) M Johnston 4-8-9	D McKeown 4

10-11 Running Stag, 13-8 Unconditional Love, 100-30 Acharne, 33-1 others

2.05 FAUCETS MAIDEN STAKES (£3,339: 1m) (11)

1	5-60	BLOOD ORANGE 192 G Margarson 3-9-0	R Cochrane 7
2	6003	DURABLE GEORGE 12 J Bridger 3-9-0	D Biggs 11
3	0400	IKRAM BOY 24 A Bailey 3-9-0	K Hodgson 1
4	0022	KAFIL 10J (BF) G L Moore 3-9-0	A Clark 2
5	5504	MANIKATO 19 D Cosgrove 3-9-0	M Rimmer 6
6	66-	OTHER CLUB 402 J Toller 3-9-0	S Sanders 9
7	50	ABLE LASS 81 R Armstrong 3-8-9	F Norton 5
8	600	LAWFULL BLUE 24 C Dwyer 3-8-9	S Whitworth 4
9	00	MILKY WAY 24 S Woods 3-8-9	N Day 3
10		*PINE CREEK L Cottrell 3-8-9*	*M Fenton 8*
11	6	RASPBERRY SAUCE 107 C Cyzer 3-8-9	Dean McKeown 10

4-9 Kafil, 10-1 Manikato, 12-1 Durable George, 14-1 Ikram Boy, 16-1 others

2.35 FAUCETS MAIDEN STAKES (£2,294: 7f) (12)

1	0000	AFTER EIGHT 28 (BF) R Armstrong 2-9-0	F Norton 10
2	0	BANK ON HIM 17 G L Moore 2-9-0	M Wigham 2
3	0	BRIERY MEC 18 H Collingridge 2-9-0	M Rimmer 11
4	0	GOLD HAWK 17 B Smart 2-9-0	J Stack 5
5	0P	IL DESTINO 36 (BF) P Makin 2-9-0	R Cochrane 8
6	00	OMAR'S ODYSSEY 29 P Mitchell 2-9-0	A Clark 1
7	D4	BATCHWORTH BELLE 12 E Wheeler 2-8-9	S Carson (7) 7
8	0	ELABELLOU 50 M Johnston 2-8-9	Dean McKeown 6
9	00	GIRLIE SET 18 M Prescott 2-8-9	S Sanders 3
10	*0*	*ORNAMENTAL 17 J Fanshawe 2-8-9*	*N Day 9*
11	65	RUSSIAN DELIGHT 35 R Hannon 2-8-9	R Perham 4
12	406	THE ROBE 4 (BF) B Meehan 2-8-9	G Hannon (7) 12

7-2 After Eight, 9-2 Russian Delight, 13-2 The Robe, 7-1 Elabellou, 8-1 others

3.05 FAUCETS FOR GROHMASTER LOW OR HIGH PRESSURE HANDICAP (Div I: £1,944: 2m) (10)

1	-512	ANJOU 27 (CD,F,G) J Pearce 5-10-0	G Faulkner (5) 10
2	0000	BROUGHTONS FORMULA 15 (B,CD) W Musson 7-9-1	D O'Shea 9
3	0040	ETERNITY 25 J Fanshawe 3-8-13	S Sanders 3
4	/00/	LITTLE HOOLIGAN 12J (V,G) S Knight 6-8-11	Dean McKeown 8
5	3110	BE TRUE 15 (BF,F) G L Moore 3-8-9	Candy Morris 2
6	1150	SELMESTON 19 (D,G,S) S C Williams 5-8-8	D Williams (7) 5
7	0005	FLYING COLOURS 15 C Benstead 3-8-5	A Clark 7
8	4205	ILLEGALLY YOURS 122 (V) L Montague Hall 4-8-4	M Harfield (7) 1
9	0642	ROSE OF GLENN 15 (C,F,G) B Palling 6-8-2	P P Murphy (3) 6
10	0453	DOYENNE 27 (D) G Lewis 5-7-10	N Carlisle 4

3-1 Rose Of Glenn, 5-1 Selmeston, 6-1 Broughtons Formula, Doyenne, 7-1 others

3.35 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (Qualifier: £2,791: 1m) (12)

1	0016	MYTTONS MISTAKE 22 (D,F,G) R Hodges 4-10-0	R Cochrane 2
2	0500	WHITE PLAINS 24 (F,S) K Burke 4-9-13	P Doe (7) 6
3	1643	BARBASON 7 (BF,CD,F) G L Moore 5-9-13	Candy Morris 7
4	0045	TREMPLIN 143 (B,S) N Callaghan 5-9-12	M Tebbutt 10
5	*0061*	*PUZZLEMENT 15 (CD) C Brittain 3-9-12*	*W Ryan 8*
6	0000	SOAKING 15 (CD,F) M Usher 7-9-9	P McCabe (3) 3
7	1034	ROBELLION 15 (CD,F,G) D Arbuthnot 6-9-9	S Whitworth 4
8	2055	DUMMER GOLF TIME 7 (V,G,G) Lord Huntingdon 4-9-9	S Sanders 9
9	0000	BOWLED OVER 181 (F) C Cyzer 4-9-8	Dean McKeown 1
10	0040	GADGE 34 (CD,F,G,S) A Bailey 6-9-6	J Bosley (7) 11
11	0012	ALFAHAAL 19 (BF,D,F,S) C Dwyer 4-9-3	M Wigham 5
12	0043	INVOCATION 12 (CD,F) G L Moore 10-9-2	A Clark 12

3-1 Puzzlement, 7-2 Barbason, 11-2 Alfahaal, 7-1 Robellion, 10-1 others

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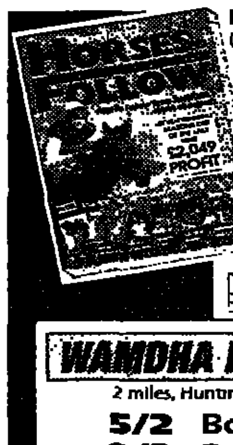

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FOOTBALL

Relaxed Villa aim to take defensive route to success

From Russell Kempson in Bucharest

POVERTY and wealth sit uneasily side by side here in the Romanian capital, with its smart boutiques and potholed roads, its glorious architecture and crumbling apartments. Visitors from the West are warned of pickpockets roaming in gangs and to stay away from the parks and dimly lit streets after dark.

For Aston Villa, though, it is all a welcome respite from the domestic stress that has afflicted them since the FA Carling Premiership started in August. The 2-1 victory against Everton at Villa Park on Saturday — their first league win in five matches — may have eased the discontent back home, but it is only in Europe where Villa have felt able to express their true selves this season.

When they flew into Bucharest yesterday, over the white-covered rooftops still laden with the last fall of snow, they exuded a relaxed air. The internal squabbles of the past months appeared forgotten, the petty disagreements over. Concentration was levelled solely on the first leg of their Uefa Cup third round tie against Steaua Bucharest this evening.

Brian Little, the Villa manager, still urged caution. "When the draw was made, a lot of people seemed to be very pleased with it," he said. "Having now watched Steaua, I think they are a very good side. They are technically gifted, which you would expect, and they also work hard. It is going to be tough, very tough."

Though not in his nature, Little will be satisfied with a 0-0 draw in the Steaua Stadium — a scoreline that served Villa well in their first legs against Bordeaux and Athletic Bilbao in the previous rounds. "Yes, that would suit us," he said. "As long as we go home still thinking we have a good chance, we will have done our job."

Little: cautious

Little has learnt a lot since moving from Leicester City to Villa Park three years ago, the anniversary of which — along with his 44th birthday — he celebrates today. A record of 62 wins and 40 draws in 145 matches, in all competitions, bears close scrutiny.

He also gleaned much, however hurtful it was at the time, from the defeat against Helsingborgs IF in the first round of the Uefa Cup last season. It was only towards the end of the return leg in Sweden that Villa suddenly realised they were in trouble. When they reacted, it was too late. It was a chastening experience.

With continental confidence now restored and Ian Taylor available again after suspension from domestic competition, there is an aura of expectation within. "Our defence is the main reason for our success in Europe," Savo Milosevic, the Villa striker, said. "If we have to drag ten bodies behind the ball, we will. It may not look pretty or exciting but it is very effective. If we can get past Steaua, I reckon we can go all the way."

A tad premature, perhaps, especially with Gareth Southgate, the captain, absent because of injury and Mark Bosnich, the goalkeeper, on World Cup duty with Australia. Steaua might not be the force of old, when they enjoyed Ceaucescu's dubious patronage and won the European Cup in 1986, but they can still make life uncomfortable for even the most obstinate of visitors.

On their way to the last 16, for the first time in 20 years and as the sole British survivors, Villa have earned a number of plus points in the diplomatic department. They left many new-found friends in France and Spain and, yesterday, brought with them a skip of tinned food for the needy of Bucharest, of which there are thousands.

Doug Ellis, the club chairman, has also asked the travelling Villa fans to pack food parcels, which will be collected by British Embassy officials and delivered to Orphanage No 7 — a run-down establishment that caters for 120 boys aged from six to 14.

ASTON VILLA (probable: 3-4-1-2): M Oakes — U Ehiogu, S Staunton, R Scimeca — F Nelson, M Draper, I Taylor, A Wright — D Yorke — S Milosevic, S Collymore

Basingstoke work to model design

By Our Sports Staff

FOR Ernie Howe, Wycombe Wanderers are the club and the team that he most wants to emulate. They are the model that all non-League clubs should follow, having risen from semi-professional obscurity to the Nationwide League second division, with a new stadium to boot. Tonight, at least, Wycombe are also the team that he most wants to defeat.

Howe is the manager of Basingstoke Town, of the Ryman League, who held Wycombe to a 2-2 draw at Adams Park in the first round of the FA Cup ten days ago. They meet in the replay in Hampshire this evening.

"I remember when I was coaching Wokingham for a few years and we played against them at their old ground," Howe, the former Fulham player, said. "They've set the standard since. It's been amazing for them. They are where all non-League sides want to be."

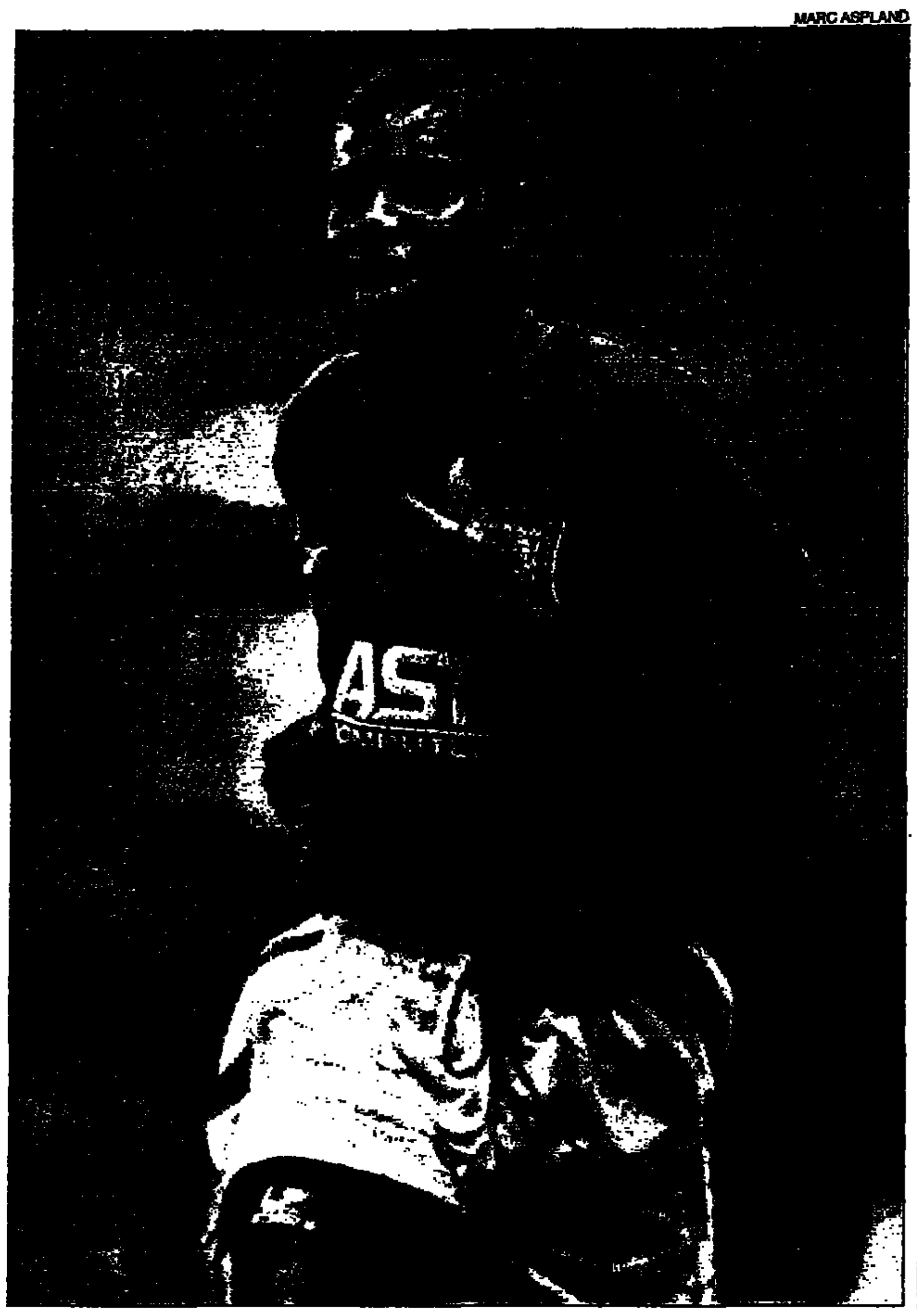
Not that Basingstoke will take the field with an inferiority complex. Howe's players pulled back a two-goal deficit in the first game and he feels that they should already be preparing for a second-round trip to either Exeter City or Northampton Town.

"I didn't feel we played that badly and I don't think we deserved to be two-nil down, but I think we surprised them the way we came back," he said. "We're really looking forward to the replay. Our ground might be a little bit intimidating for them — well, that's what I'm hoping."

Slough Town are another non-League side looking to overcome Nationwide League opposition, in their case Cardiff City. City will be without Glen Crow, who has been recalled from a loan spell by Wolverhampton Wanderers, but Carl Dale will make his first appearance since August.

☐ Vauxhall yesterday announced the end of its record sponsorship of non-League football by confirming that its agreement will finish next June.

MARC ASPLAND



Taylor is preparing to return after suspension from domestic competition

Veteran Blake waiting on Jamaica's World Cup call

By Our Sports Staff

NOEL BLAKE, the Exeter City player-coach, is in line to make his international debut for Jamaica in the World Cup finals in France next summer at the age of 36.

Jamaica officials have been watching Blake closely over the past month after being alerted by Peter Fox, the manager of the club that stands third in the Nationwide League third division.

Blake, the former Birmingham City and Portsmouth central defender, grew up on the Caribbean island before moving to England and he could provide the experience that Jamaica's Brazilian coach, René Simoes, is looking for.

Jamaica confirmed their qualification for France with a 0-0 draw against Mexico nine days ago and Fox said: "Noel's still playing League football and is playing very well. He lived in Jamaica for ten years and I know that they are looking for players. If they are looking for experience, Blake has got a wealth of it. I've only left him out of one game this season to rest him and we lost 3-2."

Merseyside Police are investigating an incident on Saturday in which youths threw a brick through the window of the Barnsley team coach after their 1-0 victory over Liverpool at Anfield. No one was injured.

The attack occurred four miles from the ground, soon after a police escort had left. John Dennis, the Barnsley chairman, was appalled, but insisted that Liverpool Football Club should not shoulder any of the blame.

"The consequences of this mindless action could have been far more serious," he said. "We attach no blame to proper Liverpool fans and the club, who treated us with respect and dignity all through the afternoon."

The Football Association will look into the matter after police have completed their inquiry, but it is unlikely that any action will be taken. Liverpool have extensive stewarding at Anfield and there was a strong police presence on Saturday, but the incident occurred long after the final whistle, away from supporters who attended the match.

Paul Ince, the Liverpool midfield player, has been selected to play for Europe against a Rest of the World XI on December 6 in a match to celebrate the draw for the World Cup finals. Ince will be England's only representative in a contest that will draw on the best players across the globe.

The worst fears of Jim Smith, the Derby County manager, were confirmed last night when Jacob Laursen, the Denmark international defender, was ruled out until the new year. Laursen injured medial ligaments in his right knee in the FA Carling Premiership game against Coventry City on Saturday and the results of a scan have revealed torn muscle fibres.

SNOOKER

McManus keeps the underdog at bay

By Phil Yates

ALAN McMANUS, one of the few established players to have avoided the surfeit of upsets that have swept through the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship, moved closer to the quarter-finals at the Preston Guild Hall yesterday.

The Scot, who, with Stephen Hendry and Ronnie O'Sullivan, is one of three members of the top ten in the world rankings left in the event, led Jason Prince 5-3 when their opening session concluded.

McManus, who has reached the semi-finals of the championship on three occasions, had much the better of the early exchanges. Breaks of 54, 48, 55 and 53 enabled him to move 4-1 ahead, at which point Prince appeared unlikely to challenge him for the right to meet Hendry, the title-holder.

Leading 42-0 in the sixth frame, McManus was poised to increase his lead until he missed a straightforward red to a middle pocket. Prince responded with 61 and eventually snatched it on the pink, when McManus squandered an opportunity to clear the colours.

Although he lost a disjointed seventh frame, Prince, who overcame Peter Ebdon, the world No 5, in the previous round, finished the afternoon in encouraging fashion and remained in contention by compiling an 81 break — his highest of the session — in the eighth.

Gerard Greene and Gary Ponting, who was responsible for the most unexpected result of this most unpredictable of tournaments, resume this afternoon on level terms at 4-4 after an opening session in which neither player could assert his authority.

Greene, 24, from Rainham, who resoundingly defeated Steve Davis 9-2 in the second round, constructed breaks of 60 and 71 in building a 3-1 lead while Ponting, the conqueror of John Higgins at the same stage, was slow to settle.

The inevitable butterflies generated by his first appearance on television for three years were stilled when Ponting accounted for the fifth frame with an break of 80. He also stole the sixth on the black with a 61 clearance after Greene jawed a simple brown when well ahead.

When the closing two frames of the session were shared, Greene, the world No 62, and Ponting, ranked 24 places below him, were each left requiring five of the remaining nine frames on the resumption in order to secure a debut in the quarter-finals of a ranking tournament.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Leeds offer Murray role of head coach

By Christopher Irvine

LEEDS Rhinos yesterday offered the position of head coach, vacated by Dean Bell last month, to Graham Murray, one of Australia's most widely admired coaches. His arrival at Headingley depends on a final agreement between the Australasian Super League (ASL) and the Australian Rugby League (ARL) for a single, 20-team competition next year.

Murray has agreed personal terms with Leeds, who have applied for a work permit for him. However, the deal will be scrapped if there is no unification between the rival governing bodies and Murray will remain at Hunter Mariners, who are cast in the role of sacrificial lambs in the event of a settlement to the 2½-year dispute in Australia.

The organisations have been close to agreement on a combined Australasian competition before. Leeds are confident that this time a solution can be found and that Murray will be free to take up his new post. "Unfortunately, uncertainty surrounding the future of his present club prevents us completing the deal immediately," Gary Hetherington, the Leeds chief executive, said. "Graham fits our bill and is keen to come to England. The ASL have agreed to his release, once the future of Hunter is settled."

Even though Hunter, under Murray, reached the world club championship final in their first year, the proximity of the Newcastle Knights, the ARL champions, means that there is no room for both clubs in one competition. The other potential, but remote, stumbling block to Leeds signing Murray would be if Hunter were relocated.

The announcement ends speculation linking Andy Goodway, the Great Britain coach, to the job and a possible return to Leeds by Ellery Hanley, although any hitch in the compromise in Australia will reawaken interest in several candidates.

Relegation from the Super League, which has accounted in the past two seasons for Workington Town going into administration and Oldham Bears being liquidated, has been lifted for the 12 clubs next season, ahead of the expansion to 14 clubs under a franchise system from 1999.

The Rugby Football League (RFL) has also said that new franchise clubs may be protected from relegation for three years. "No one in their right mind would invest money in a new Super League club if they could be relegated after one season," Maurice Lindsay, the RFL chief executive, said.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 90 Detroit 86; New York 104 Vancouver 84; Chicago 103 Sacramento 88; LA Lakers 119 LA Clippers 102.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: London Towers 77 Sheffield 85

	P	W	L	Pts
London Towers	12	10	2	20
Thames Valley ...	11	9	2	18
Birmingham	8	8	0	16
Leopards	12	8	4	16
Manchester	11	7	4	14
Newcastle	12	7	5	14
Sheffield	10	6	4	12
Chester	9	5	4	10
Worthing	15	5	10	10
Leicester	12	4	8	8
Derby	11	3	8	6
Crystal Palace	13	3	10	6
Watford	14	0	14	0

UNI-BALL TROPHY: Chester 73 Derby 71; Watford 104 Worthing 79

CRICKET

SUPERSPORT SERIES (final day of four): **Cape Town:** Western Province 267-7 v Gauteng. **Bloemfontein:** Free State 237 and 227; Griqualand West 362 and 106-2. **East London:** Border 341 and 265-7 dec (P C Strydom 106, S C Pope 83); Natal 350. **Port Elizabeth:** Eastern Province 293 and 222-6 (K C Wessels 130 not out); Boland 274 and 157-6.

TOUR MATCH: Centurion (final day of four): West Indies A 293 and 202; Northern Titans 175 and 253 (R Steyn 106; P Collins 4-58)

DANCE SPORT

BLACKPOOL: World professional standard: 1, M Hilton and K Hilton (Eng); 2, L Barocchi and L Barry (Eng); 3, F Selmi and S Farzello (It); 4, Y Werner and M Colagreco (Den); 5, D Caccuri and O Garshina (Russ); 6, H Amano and K Amano (Japan)

FOOTBALL

Sunday's late results

SPANISH LEAGUE: Betis [illegible] Deportivo Coruna 0

GERMAN LEAGUE: Hansa Rostock 2 Borussia Monchengladbach [illegible]

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Bloxwich 0 Aston Villa 6. Southern division: Langford 2 Three Bridges [illegible]. **Postponed:** Brighton and Hove v Barry

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Third-round draw: Marske United v Bedlington Terriers; Stockton v Burscough; Mossley or Jarrow Roofing Boldon CA v West Auckland Town; Poulton Victoria v Kidsgrove Athletic or Brodsworth; Tow Law Town v Dunston FB; Chester-le-Street or Billingham Town v Friar Lane OB; Boldmere St Michaels or Arnold Town v North Ferriby United; Clitheroe v Boston Town; Oadby Town v Seaham Red Star; Brigg Town v Hucknall Town; Armthorpe Welfare or Denaby United v Birstall United; Thackley v Stamford AFC; Bloxwich Town v Spalding United; Braintree Town v Banstead Athletic; Hemel Hempstead v Taunton Town; Lymington AFC or Bemerton Heath Harlequins v Woodbridge Town; Bodmin Town v Bowers United; Wimborne Town v Tiverton Town; Basildon United v Herne Bay or Langney Sports; Cowes Sports v Chard Town; [illegible] v Arlesey Town; Bridport v Potters Bar Town; Harwich and Parkeston or Folkestone Invicta v Chipstead; Brook House v Rocester or Histon; Peacehaven and Telscombe v Sudbury Town; Aveley or Burnham v Wroxham; Stotfold v Ashford Town; Thatcham Town v Burgess Hill Town; Deal Town or Great Wakering Rovers v Wealdstone; Brache Sparta or Halstead Town v Ely City; Chippenham Town v Tooting and Mitcham United; Camberley Town v Sudbury Wanderers.

☐ Ties to be played December 13

GOLF

KIAWAH ISLAND, South Carolina: World Cup: Leading final scores: 545: Ireland (P Harrington 71, 67, 68, 67; P McGinley 66, 70, 68, 68). 550: Scotland (R Russell 66, 72, 74, 72; C Montgomerie 68, 66, 66, 66). 551: United States (D Love 65, 69, 74, 65; J Leonard 72, 69, 67, 70). 554: Wales (I Woosnam 74, 72, 69, 64; P Price 72, 68, 69, 66). Germany (S Struver 70, 75, 67, 74; A Cejka 63, 68, 65, 72). 565: Spain (I Garrido 67, 67, 69, 67; M-A Martin 68, 74, 71, 72). 559: England (P Broadhurst 68, 74, 68, 72; M James 68, 73, 70, 66). 561: Zimbabwe (73, 67, 72, 68; M McNulty 69, 74, 71, 68). 562: New Zealand (M Long 69, 75, 67, 75; G Waite 70, 70, 69, 67); South Africa (E Els 73, 68, 69, 69; W Westner 68, 71, 72, 72). 563: Canada (R Gibson 68, 73, 71, 67; M Weir 71, 69, 74, 70). 570: Mexico (R Alarcon 68, 75, 67, 73; O Serna 70, 79, 68, 72). 571: Argentina (J Coceres 72, 69, 69, 67; J Sarandi 71, 74, 74, 75); Malaysia (M Ramayah 71, 70, 72, 75; A Kadir 66, 75, 71, 71); Denmark (T Bjorn 69, 72, 67, 67; K Storgaard 71, 80, 72, 73). 572: Japan (T Teshima 74, 74, 72, 68; H Fujita 68, 74, 71, 71); Puerto Rico (M Ambriz 74, 72, 71, 69; M Suarez 72, 72, 72, 70). 573: South Korea (Park No-Seok 71, 72, 73, 73; Choi Kyung-Ju 69, 73, 69, 73). 577: France (M Farry 72, 70, 77, 75; J Van de Velde 68, 70, 70, 75); Australia (W Riley 67, 72, 74, 79; B Hughes 72, 71, 70, 72). 578: Colombia (J Amaya 73, 70, 79, 73; G Mendoza 70, 69, 68, 76). 579: Switzerland (J Cola 74, 73, 68, 80; P Quirici 74, 72, 69, 69). 585: India (G Chor 74, 76, 70, 70; A Singh 72, 74, 77, 72); Italy (S Grappasonni 73, 75, 68, 72; M Florioli 77, 74, 70, 71)

PGA EUROPEAN TOUR QUALIFYING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT (at San Roque and Guadalmina): **Leading fourth-round scores** (GB and Ire players unless stated; round not completed due to rain): 280: F Henge (Swe) 68, 75, 66, 71; R-J Derksen (Hol) 76, 66, 67, 71. 282: M Campbell (NZ) 69, 72, 67, 74. 283: G Owen 70, 76, 67, 70; O Eliasson (Swe) 73, 68, 73, 69; D Thomson 71, 70, 74, 68. 284: S Bennett 75, 68, 70, 71; J Singh (India) 67, 74, 71, 72; A Sandywell 70, 70, 71, 73

LAS VEGAS: LPGA Tour championship: Leading final scores (US unless stated): 277: A Sorenstam (Swe) 72, 68, 67, 70 (won at third extra hole); L Kane 71, 68, 71, 67; P Hurst 72, 64, 73, 68. 279: K Webb (Aus) 72, 66, 72, 69; K Robbins 73, 66, 69, 71. 280: N Lopez 69, 68, 71, 72. 281: D Andrews 69, 73, 67, 72; J Inkster 69, 70, 70, 72. 282: C Johnson 72, 71, 68, 71; C Walker 72, 69, 68, 73. 285: T Green 72, 72, 69, 72; L Neumann (Swe) 72, 69, 72, 72; D Richard 71, 69, 72, 73. Other scores: 286: D Pepper 70, 75, 73, 68; L Davies (GB) 71, 71, 72, 72. 289: B Burton 71, 71, 72, 75. 291: A Nicholas (GB) 71, 74, 75, 71

HOCKEY

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Men: Second division: Edinburgh University 2 Insights Menzieshill 1; Clydebank 4 Grove DHS 1. **Women: Second division:** Watsonians 2 Grange 3

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Washington 5 Florida 2; Carolina 3 Calgary 3 (OT); Los Angeles 2 Colorado 1 (OT)

SUPERLEAGUE: Bracknell 3 Nottingham 1; Manchester 6 Newcastle 0; Sheffield 8 Cardiff 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester	12	7	3	2	57	38	17
Sheffield	12	6	5	1	51	37	14
Nottingham	11	6	3	2	41	32	14
Ayr	10	6	4	0	37	30	13
Cardiff	9	4	3	2	30	32	10
Bracknell	10	4	5	1	33	44	10
Basingstoke	10	3	5	2	34	41	9
Newcastle	12	2	10	0	26	57	4

NORDIC SKIING

BEITOSTOELEN, Norway: World Cup: Relays: Men (4 x 10km): 1, Norway (T Alsgaard, A Eide, E Jevne, B Dahlie) 1hr 37min 31.0sec; 2, Finland 1:37 34.6; 3, Norway B 1:37 37.8; 4, Norway C 1:37 37.8; 5, Austria 1:37 45.6; 6, Russia B 1:38 00.7. **Women** (4 x 5km): 1, Russia (N Masalkina, O Danilova, N Gavriluk, L Lazutina) 53min 37.1sec; 2, Norway 53:58.0; 3, Italy 54:46.6; 4, Finland 54:46.9; 5, Czech Republic 54:57.9; 6, Switzerland 55:07.3

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB, London: Peel, Hunt invitation singles: Semi-finals: N Smith bt P Brake 10-15, 13-16, 15-11, 15-12, 15-4; R Owen-Browne w/o A Robinson scr. **Final:** Smith bt Owen-Browne 15-10, 8-15, 15-2, 15-5

REAL TENNIS

QUEEN'S CLUB: British Land British Open (GB unless stated): **Men: Singles: Semi-finals:** R Fahey (Aus) bt W Davies (Aus) 6-2, 6-1, 6-0; J Snow? — J Seabray bt J Male 6-5, 6-5, 3-6, 6-3. **Doubles:** J Snow and J Male bt W Davies and F Filippelli (Aus) 6-1, 6-3, 6-2; R Fahey (Aus) and M Gooding bt G Hyland (Aus) and B Dale (Aus) 6-3, 6-2, 6-3

RUGBY UNION

CASTLE CROFT: Under-21 county championship: Semi-finals: East Midlands 25 Gloucestershire 27, Surrey 17 North Midlands 18.

SKIING

PARK CITY, Utah: World Cup: Women: Slalom: 1, Z Steggall (Aus) (48.18sec, 48.12) 1min 36.30sec; 2, Y Nowen (Swe) (48.39, 48.69) 1:37.08; 3, C Riegler (NZ) (48.39, 48.96) 1:37.35; 4, K Koznick (US) (48.66, 49.09) 1:37.75; 5, T Bakke (Nor) (48.81, 49.31) 1:38.12; 6, M Accola (Switz) (49.34, 49.17) 1:38.51. **Leading World Cup positions: Slalom:** 1, Steggall 100pts; 2, Nowen 80; 3, Riegler 60; 4, Koznick 50; 5, Bakke 45; 6, Accola 40. **Overall:** 1, D Compagnoni (It) 214; 2, M Ertl (Ger) 192; 3, Nowen 189; 4, A Meissnitzer (Austria) 156; 5, L Piccard (Fr) 141; 6, A Flemmen (Nor) 108.

SNOOKER

PRESTON: Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom Championship: Fourth round: M Stevens (Wales) bt M Williams (Wales) 9-1, S Lee (Eng) bt N Foulds (Eng) 9-2. G Ponting (Eng) level with G Greene (Eng) 4-4; A McManus (Scot) leads J Prince (N Ire) 5-3.

SQUASH

DOHA: Qatar international: First round: T Garner (Aus) w/o B Martin (Aus) scr; R Eyles (Aus) bt D Ryan (Ire) 15-13, 15-6, 17-16; M Heath (Scot) bt Zubair Khan (Pak) 15-11, 15-12, 11-15, 15-13; J Bonetat (Fr) bt M Cairns (Eng) 17-14, 15-9, 15-12; A Barada (Egypt) bt N Taylor (Eng) 13-15, 15-7, 15-12, 15-12; P Nicol (Scot) bt O El Borolossy (Egypt) 15-7, 15-10, 15-12; C Walker (Eng) bt A Thoren (Swe) 17-14, 8-15, 15-10, 15-14; B Haddrell (Aus) bt M Chaloner (Eng) 11-15, 15-7, 15-13, 15-11

TENNIS

HARTFORD, Connecticut: ATP doubles championship: Yellow group: Final: R Leach and J Stark (US) bt M Bhupathi and L Paes (India) 6-3, 6-4, 7-6.

NEW YORK: WTA Chase Championships: Singles: Final: J Novotna (Cz) bt M Pierce (Fr) 7-6, 6-2, 6-3

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday November 29

Coupon No. fixture forecast

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

1 Barnsley v Leeds 2
2 Bolton v Wimbledon 1
3 Chelsea v Derby X
4 Coventry v Leicester 1
5 C Palace v Newcastle 2
6 Everton v Tottenham 1
7 South'pton v Sheff W X
8 West Ham v A Villa 1

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

9 Birm'gham v Portsm'th 1
10 Bradford v Norwich 2
11 Hudders'f'd v Bury 1
12 Ipswich v Nottm For X
13 Middlesbro v W Brom 1
14 Oxford v Port Vale 2
15 Sheff Utd v Crewe 1
16 Stockport v Man City X
17 Stoke v Reading 1
18 Sunderland v Tranmere 1
19 Wolves v QPR 1

SECOND DIVISION

20 Brentford v Wrexham X
21 Bristol R v Millwall X
22 Burnley v Northampton 1
23 Carlisle v Bristol C 2
24 Chesterf'd v Southend 1
25 Gillingham v Grimsby 2
26 Plymouth v Oldham 2
27 Preston v Fulham X
28 Walsall v Blackpool 1
29 Watford v Wigan 1
30 Wycombe v B'mouth 2
31 York v Luton 1

THIRD DIVISION

32 Barnet v Darlington 1
33 Cambridge United v Hartlepool 2
34 Cardiff v Scarborough 1
35 Chester v Exeter 1
36 Hull v Doncaster X
37 Lincoln v Macclesfield 1
38 Mansfield v Leyton O X
39 Notts Co v Rotherham 2

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

40 Hibernian v Motherwell X
41 Rangers v St Johnstone 1

FIRST DIVISION

42 Airdrie v Stirling 1
43 G Morton v Partick 1
44 Hamilton v Dundee 2
45 Raith v Ayr [illegible]
46 St Mirren v Falkirk 2

SECOND DIVISION

47 Brechin v Clyde 2
48 Inverness v Q of S 2
49 Livingston v E Fife 1

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Chelsea, Southampton, Ipswich, Stockport, Brentford, Bristol Rovers, Preston, Hull, Mansfield, Hibernian.

BEST DRAWS: Ipswich, Brentford, Bristol Rovers, Preston, Mansfield

AWAYS: Leeds, Newcastle, Port Vale, Bristol City, Grimsby

HOMES: Huddersfield, Middlesbrough, Sheffield United, Sunderland, Chesterfield, Watford, York, Barnet, Cardiff

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Sheffield United, Sunderland, York, Barnet, Cardiff. **Aways:** Leeds, Newcastle, Grimsby. **Draws:** Brentford, Bristol Rovers, Preston.

Vince Wright

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

Uefa Cup

Third round, first leg

Steaua Bucharest v Aston Villa (6.45)

FA Cup

First-round replays

* Basingstoke v Wycombe
Burnley v Rotherham (7.45)
Cambridge Utd v Plymouth (7.45)
Cardiff v Slough
Colchester v Brentford (7.45)
Emley v Morecambe (7.45)
Gainsborough v Lincoln (at Lincoln City FC)
Gillingham v Bristol Rovers (7.45)
Grimsby v Shrewsbury (7.45)
Leyton Orient v Hendon (7.45)
Mansfield v Oldham (7.45)
Northampton v Exeter (7.45)

Vauxhall Conference

Rushden and Diamonds v Kettering (7.45)

Spalding Cup

Second round

Stalybridge v Gateshead (7.45)
Telford v Northwich (7.45)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Halesowen v Salisbury (7.45). **Midland division:** Boston v Shepshed Dynamo. **Southern division:** Clevedon v Cinderford.

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Enfield; Chesham v Sutton United; Harrow v Yeading; Kingstonian v Purfleet; Walton and Hersham v Dulwich (7.45). **First division:** Aldershot Town v Molesey (7.45); Grays v Barton Rovers; Romford v Staines (7.45). **Guardian Insurance Cup: Second round:** Tooting and Mitcham v Camberley Town. **Full Members Cup: Second round:** Oxford City v Thame United. **First round:** Wembley v Billericay. **Associate Members Trophy: Second round:** Banstead v Marlow; Barking v Bromley; Bracknell v Epsom and Ewell; Egham v Hungerford; Flackwell Heath v Dorking, Ford Utd v Edgware; Hemel v East Thurrock (7.45); Leighton Town v Bedford Town (7.45); Met Police v Windsor and Eton, Northwood v Wivenhoe, Southall v Hornchurch; Tilbury v Wealdstone

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Hyde United, Chorley v Winsford United. **First division:** Matlock Town v Alfreton; Trafford v Droylsden. **President's Cup: First round:** Altrincham v Leigh RMI, Barrow v Marine, Blyth Spartans v Bishop Auckland; Radcliffe v Runcorn. **First division Cup: First round:** Belper Town v Congleton, Whitley Bay v Whitby. **Replay:** Whitley Bay v Whitby Town (7.45).

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Second round: Armthorpe Welfare v Denaby, Herne Bay v Langney Sports (7.45). **Second round replays:** Brodsworth v Kidsgrove; Arnold v Boldmere St M, Histon v Rocester, Great Wakering Rovers v Deal (7.45); Folkestone Invicta v Harwich and Parkeston (8.0), Burnham v Aveley; Bemerton Heath Harlequins v Lymington.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Charlton v Ipswich (2.0); Crystal Palace v Queens Park Rangers (at Plough Lane, 2.0); West Ham v Chelsea (at Southend United FC, 7.45).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Coventry v Oldham (7.0)

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries v Salford; Chadderton v Nantwich Town (7.45). Glossop North End v Maine Road, Haslingden v Rossendale; Holker Old Boys v Clitheroe (7.45). Mossley v Darwen. Vauxhall G M v Prescot Cables; Warrington v Atherton LR.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Stockton v Morpeth.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Liversedge v North Ferriby; Thackley v Brigg Town. **Cup: Second round:** Arnold v Garforth.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Horsham YMCA v Selsey (7.15), Pagham v Whitehawk; Shoreham v Littlehampton (7.45)

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Bournemouth v East Cowes.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division (7.45): Great Yarmouth v Watton; Lowestoft v Sudbury Wanderers; Newmarket v Stowmarket; Sudbury Town v Gorleston; Warboys v Diss.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Calne v Backwell (7.45). Bridgwater v Torrington (7.45)

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS O'BRIEN BUTCHERS: Premier Division Cup: Langford v Harefield.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Cup: Second round first leg: Cemaes Ynys Mon v T.N.S. (7.45).

THE STAR LEINSTER SENIOR CUP: Quarter finals: Bohemians v Ards. (7.45); Shamrock v Ashtown V (7.45); UCD v Cherry Orchard (7.45).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards v Crusaders; Glentoran v Omagh; Linfield v Portadown

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Sheffield United v Tranmere; Norwich v Crystal Palace; Bradford v Scarborough.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Premier League Trophy: Under-19: Nottinghamshire v Derbyshire (at Kimberley Town, 7.15). Under-16: Gloucestershire v Devon (at Yate FC); Shropshire v Staffordshire (at Uleshall); Hampshire v Dorset (at Aerostructures).

RUGBY UNION

Tour match

English Rugby Partnership XV v New Zealand XV (at Ashton Gate, Bristol, 7.45)

UNDER-21 MATCH: Midlands v New Zealand (at Northampton, 7.30).

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Manchester v Nottingham (7.30)

MOTOR RALLYING: Network Q RAC Rally (third day: Cheltenham-Rheol-Cheltenham).

SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria UK Championship (in Preston)

هكذا في الأصل

ICE HOCKEY

Scoring spree is quickly forgotten

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

AFTER enjoying a goal-scoring spree on Saturday, life went back to something approaching normality in the Superleague on Sunday. Two goaltenders — Piero Greco, of Sheffield Steelers, and Grant Sjerven, of Manchester Storm — kept the opposition scoreless, while Bracknell Bees beat Nottingham Panthers 3-1, which is the sort of scoreline that has become the norm.

There was never much to choose between the teams at Bracknell. Jeff Johnstone scored for the Bees in the first period and Blake Knox for the Panthers in the second. Wayde Bucsis restored Bracknell's lead early in the final session and, with Nottingham deploying an extra forward in a late bid for the equaliser, Wayne Crawford shot into an empty net with eight seconds remaining.

It was a weekend of contrasting fortunes for Greco. At Basingstoke on Saturday, he had a shaky first period, lost his composure and was replaced by his back-up for the rest of a game in which the Bison beat the Steelers 10-7.

On Sunday, he saved all 39 shots that the Cardiff Devils fired at him, while his colleagues scored eight goals to hand the Devils their heaviest defeat of the season.

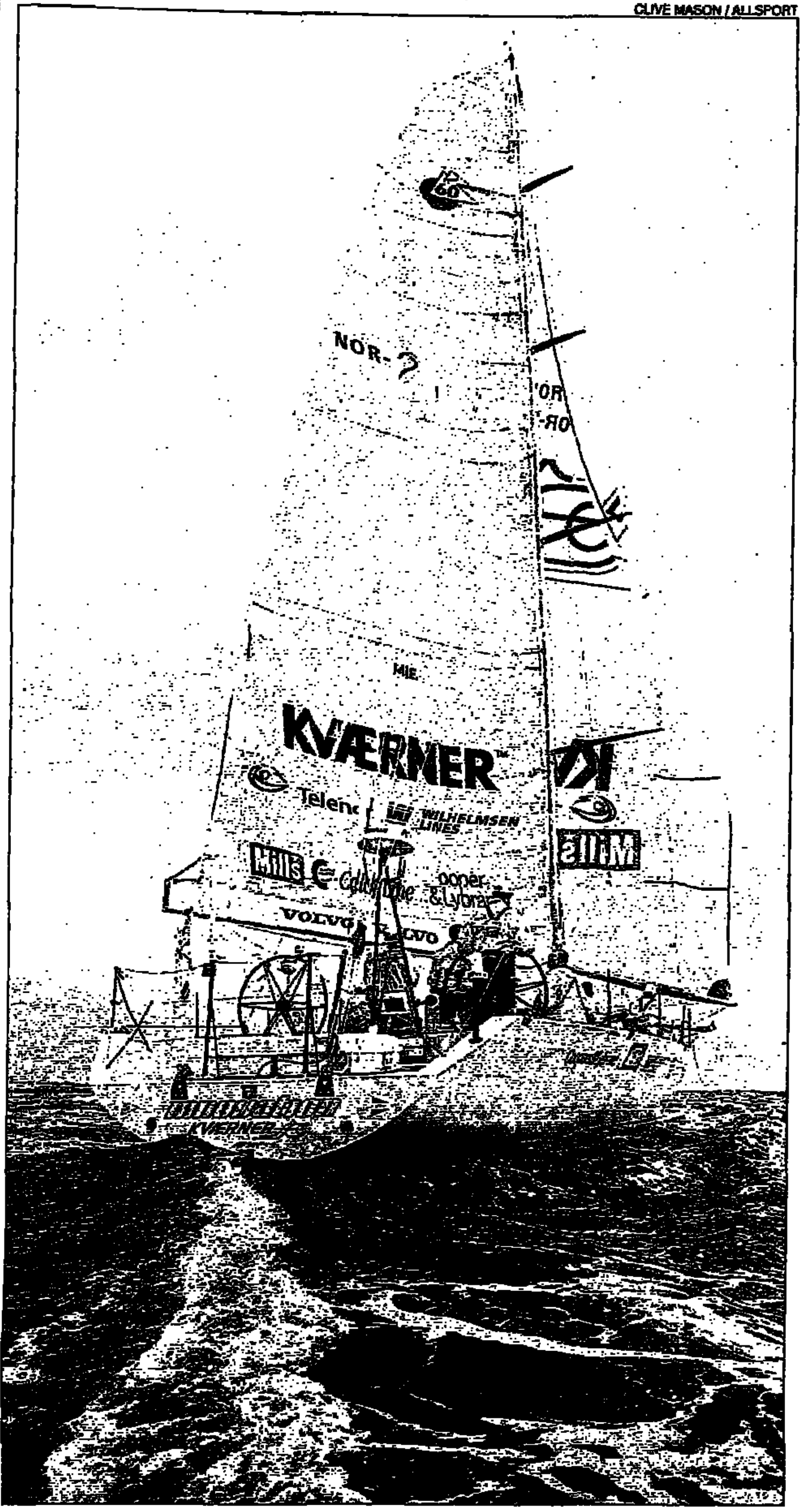
Sjerven had a far easier evening than Greco in Manchester Storm's 6-0 win. Newcastle Cobras managed only 19 shots on goal and once again showed a lack of discipline. Rob McCaig, making only his second appearance for them, was ejected early in the second period for fighting and, after their 64 minutes in penalties at Nottingham on Saturday, they racked up 70 on Sunday. They remain rooted to the bottom of the table.

While the Superleague saw a sudden increase in goals this weekend, the British National League, which is usually dominated by high-scoring forwards, featured two games on Sunday that were decided by a single goal. Guildford Flames beat Telford Tigers and Kingston Hawks beat Fife Flyers. In both games, the only goal came with less than six minutes remaining.

Norwegian ready to assume leading role in Whitbread race

Frostad sails out of hell in triumph

CLIVE MASON / ALLSPORT



Innovation Kvaerner sails into Fremantle harbour at the end of the second leg

Edward Gorman sees the arrival of a rising star in Fremantle

They played *Bat Out of Hell* by Meat Loaf for Knut Frostad's crew, on *Innovation Kvaerner*, yesterday afternoon as the Norwegian boat reached smartly into the harbour here against an unseasonal grey sky to take second place in the second leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race.

Frostad, the youngest skipper in the race, is thus alone in having compiled two top-three finishes, having come third in Cape Town. He should be confirmed today as the overall leader after two legs, provided Lawrie Smith, of Great Britain, in *Silk Cut* gets in ahead of Paul Cayard, in *EF Language*.

Yet Frostad and his crew seemed subdued — perhaps ominously so as far as their rivals are concerned. Success is definitely not going to their heads and the focus on winning is stronger than ever. "It's too close in this race to start feeling comfortable — I think everyone has to improve and do well all the way to the end," Frostad said.

A song about getting out of hell was not inappropriate. The crew on *Kvaerner* had the haunted and exhausted look of men who have sailed on the limits for too long. The Whitbread veterans among them — notably Jim Close, the watch captain, and Marcel van Triest, the navigator — had no doubt that this had been the windiest leg of any race they have sailed in.

Close talked of the biggest waves he had ever seen. At one point *Kvaerner* was driven at almost uncontrollable speed under storm spinnaker for half an hour, when the average wind speed was 57 knots. During that spell there was so much water cascading over the bow that the instrument displays on the mast were unreadable for much of the time.

On another occasion *Kvaerner* plunged into a wave and buried herself up to 15 feet back from bow. When she recovered the crew discovered the pulpit had been ripped clean off by the impact. Like *Silk Cut*, the Norwegians almost lost all the sails stored on the weather rail when they, and most of the stanchions they were attached to, were swept overboard.

The big drama, though, was what Frostad believes to have been a collision with a whale eight days ago, when the yacht was making about 20 knots in 30 knots of breeze. There is normally a lot of noise and crashing about at those speeds, but this was different. "It felt like dumping the boat on land or crashing a car," Frostad said.

The impact from the creature, which seemed to have been travelling at right angles to the boat, sheared through three ring frames and seriously weakened the structure of the bow, forcing Frostad to sail a more conservative second half of the leg. Luckily, however, the hull remained intact and comprehensive repairs, which are already under way, should be completed within a week.

Frostad: focused

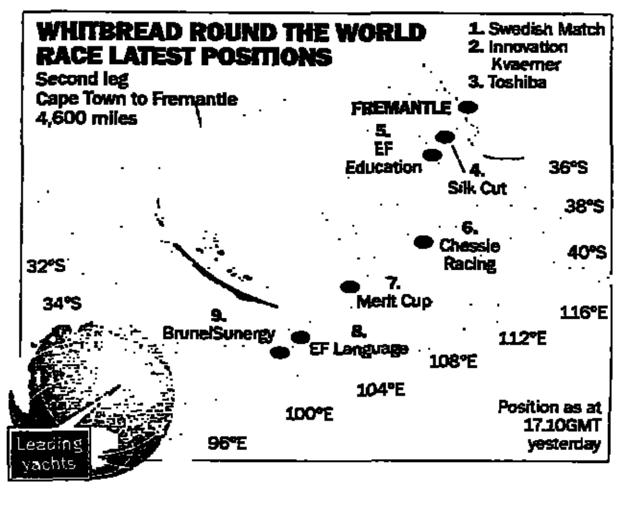
Kvaerner's consistent performance has much to do with Van Triest's expertise. Along with Andrew Cape on *Toshiba*, which finished in third place for the leg last night, he is considered to be the best of the present crop of Whitbread navigators.

Early on in this leg, after *Swedish Match* had already got away, Van Triest made the important call to get south in time to steal second place from Cayard. From then on Kvaerner was never under real threat from those astern of her.

Paul Standbridge, meanwhile, can rightly feel satisfied with a podium placing at the end of his first leg as skipper of *Toshiba*. In achieving that, he has shown to be exaggerated many of the long list of shortcomings about the campaign enumerated by the boat's outgoing skipper, Chris Dickson, who resigned in Cape Town.

After the sixth place on the first leg, *Toshiba* remains in sixth place overall here, but she is within two points of *Merit Cup* in fifth place and only four points behind *Swedish Match*, in fourth.

Standbridge brought in a much happier crew than Dickson docked with in South Africa, while his boat displayed many of the same war wounds as *Kvaerner*. He feels he can be a serious contender.



POSITIONS (at 17 10 GMT yesterday, with miles to Fremantle). 1, Swedish Match (Swe) finished at 15 15 Sunday; 2, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 9 32 yesterday; 3, Toshiba (US) 17 00. 4, Silk Cut (GB) 102 8. 5, EF Language (Swe) 154 4. 6, Chessie Racing (US) 369.5. 7, Merit Cup (Monaco) 606 7. 8, EF Education (Swe) 720.5. 9, BrunelSunergy (Holl) 835.8

SPORT IN BRIEF

Canoeists caught in troubled waters

CANOEING: Members of the Great Britain squad must continue to use the slalom course at the national water sports centre at Holme Pierrepont, near Nottingham, even though the polluted water has given many stomach upsets (John Goodbody writes). A resolution that no selection races should be held at the centre was defeated at the annual general meeting of the slalom committee of the British Canoe Union at the weekend.

However, the representatives of the 100 clubs present voted unanimously that the levels of water pollution should be given to competitors and that the relevant authorities should be asked to improve the standard of water at all slalom courses. The course at Holme Pierrepont was closed on Saturday: the water was polluted.

Final venue

RUGBY UNION: The Heineken Cup final will be played at Bordeaux on January 31. Three of the four semi-finalists this season are French clubs. Bath are at home to Pau on December 20 and Brive, the cup-holders, travel to Toulouse on December 21.

Golden shot

SHOOTING: Squadron Leader David Calvert, RAF, competing in the full-bore rifle pairs event at the Commonwealth championships in Malaysia, became the first man to make a maximum score of 50 with ten shots on the new smaller targets, which will be introduced next year. Calvert went on to score a maximum 150 and, with his partner, Martin Millar, of Comber, won the gold medal.

Smith triumph

RACKETS: Neil Smith, the New York professional, beat Rupert Owen-Browne 15-10, 8-15, 15-2, 15-5 to win the Peel, Hunt invitation singles at Queen's Club.

CRICKET: WEST INDIES' WARM-UP MATCH CANCELLED AFTER HOTEL DISPUTE

Lloyd checks out new itinerary

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN RAWALPINDI

THE West Indies cricket team, beaten heavily inside four days at Peshawar last week in the first Test of a three-match series, is finding out the hard way about touring life in Pakistan. The three-day match against Habib Bank in Hyderabad, which should have started yesterday, was cancelled after the West Indian party booked out of its hotel, claiming it was substandard.

The touring team travelled to Hyderabad on Sunday from Karachi, but checked out immediately when Clive Lloyd, the team manager, deemed it unfit. Lloyd, a former International Cricket Council match referee, who abandoned a World Cup semi-final in Calcutta last year between Sri Lanka and India when a riot broke out in the stadium, took the team back to Karachi, where they remained yesterday.

The West Indians will return by road to Hyderabad today to play a one-day game of 50 overs a side against the bank team. They will then go back to Karachi, 125 miles away, where they will practise tomorrow, travelling on Thursday to Rawalpindi, where the second Test begins on Saturday.

"The hotel was not good enough," Lloyd said, "and with the game being so close to the Test we decided not to take any chances." It means that West Indies go into the last two Tests having had no first-class cricket since the thumping defeat, by an innings and 19 runs, at Peshawar. The players, already short of form, are now short of cricket as well.

Lloyd informed the Pakistan board of his decision and also notified Steve Camacho, the chief executive of the West Indies Board of Control, before the coach turned round. Hyderabad would not be the first choice of venue for the team as it regroups before the Test series resumes. It has none of the creature comforts — if that is the right phrase — of other cities in Pakistan and its choice of hotels is limited.

The Pakistan authorities were surprised by Lloyd's decision. Although the West Indies manager understood that his team was booked into the Indus Hotel, adjacent to the Niaz Stadium, local officials said that the plans had changed six weeks before the start of the tour because the Indus failed to guarantee sufficient space and the match clashed with a convention there.

"The Pakistan Cricket Board was informed of the plan," Yar Mohammad Salongi, president of the Hyderabad Cricket Association, said, "and the home board conveyed this message to their West Indies counterparts. West Indies did not have any grounds to complain, as they had agreed to a change in accommodation." He pointed out that the India team stayed at the Indus for a one-day international on September 28.

Stewart eager to promote school ties

Pat Gibson hears the ECB plans to improve English cricket at all levels

THE huge cranes towering over Lord's in the November gloom, as the new grandstand takes shape, were a sign of the times. The easy-going image of English cricket was out; the concept of a modern game thrusting towards the 21st century was in.

Over at the Nursery End, in the bright new offices of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Micky Stewart, the director of coaching and excellence, was handing over his torch to Hugh Morris, who is succeeding him as technical director.

He did it by announcing the publication of two new coaching manuals, aimed specifically at primary and secondary schools, and outlining his vision of the game designed to raise the standard of English cricket from bottom to top. He linked the iniative at the grassroots to the national coaching scheme, the proposed introduction of premier leagues, the England age-group sides and the full Test team.

Stewart, who is retiring at the age of 65, began by demolishing a couple of myths. "People say that cricket is dead in schools," he said, "but that is complete and utter rubbish. In the past five years, more schools have been playing cricket than there were in the previous five years. It is now played in 70 per cent of primary schools and 68 per cent of secondary schools.

"People also think that youngsters do not play cricket. That is rubbish as well. Never in the history of the game have so many youngsters played cricket as they do now."

Stewart: stepping down

The problem, as Stewart has long contended, is that the standard of cricket has never matched the level of participation and that is what he has been trying to address since he gave up the England manager's job five years ago. "The traditional image is of a game to be enjoyed by 22 people who go out on to the village green, have strawberries and cream for tea and then down six pints of bitter," Stewart said.

"Long may that aspect of it continue, but we must now have a structure that allows us to compete equally and successfully all the way to the highest levels of the game. It is not sufficient just to play; the object must be to win cricket matches at all levels."

First things first, however: hence the coaching manuals produced by the ECB's national coaches, Gordon Lord, Bob Carter, Graham Saville, John Abrahams, Tim Boon and Paul Farbrace.

The first manual, *Time to Play*, is designed to introduce youngsters to the game at primary school. "I had not realised," Stewart said, "that 85 in every 100 primary school teachers are ladies, so they have to feel as comfortable teaching cricket as they might do teaching rounders."

The second, *Cricket Coach's Manual*, is intended to be useful to physical education teachers who may have very little knowledge of the game, yet still be flexible enough for those who know a lot. "It's been a real eye-opener to me to see the amount of time, effort and enthusiasm that's gone into these publications from all the coaches," Morris said. "We have got a vibrant game at school level, despite what people think, and they will help to carry that forward."

☐ Richard Peel, the controller of communications for BBC News, is to be the ECB's new director of corporate affairs.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This hand won the award for the best defended hand in the 1997 World Junior Teams. Morton Madsen was West: he was playing for Denmark, who won the event.

Dealer North North-South game IMPs

North:
♠ A Q 7 6 5
♥ A K 4
♦ A Q 3
♣ 10 6

West:
♠ K J 4
♥ 8 7 6
♦ K 10 6 2
♣ A Q 3

East:
♠ 10 9 8 3
♥ J 10 9 5
♦ 7
♣ 8 7 4 2

South:
♠ 2
♥ Q 3 2
♦ J 9 8 5 4
♣ K J 9 5

S	W	N	E
—	—	1 S	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	All Pass		

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: eight of hearts.

North-South were playing a five-card major system in which the One No-Trump response could be somewhat weaker than in Acol. Hence North's raise to Two No-Trump showed 18-19 points, allowing South to bid game.

Madsen passed the first test when he led the eight of hearts rather than a diamond: South took it in dummy and tried the ace of diamonds, then the queen of diamonds. Madsen ducked, his second good play. With the bad split revealed declarer switched to clubs, and ran the ten. Madsen made his third fine play by ducking this trick: he won the club continuation with the queen to press on with hearts. South won in hand to lead his spade towards the ace-queen.

Madsen contributed the jack, and discarded the king of spades under the ace. If he had not made this play declarer could have cashed dummy's third heart and exited with a spade, forcing West to concede the ninth trick. But as it was East was able to win the third round of spades, and the defence had three more winners to take.

Note that if Madsen takes the second round of diamonds or the first round of clubs it gives declarer the extra entry to hand that he needs to establish and cash two club tricks. That would have been enough for his contract.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CLARABELLA
a. An organ stop
b. A beautiful woman
c. A pansy

MICHIGANDER
a. A small male goose
b. A person from Michigan
c. A stochastic process

MORENA
a. A cherry
b. A cleft in a glacier
c. A chief

DULCIANA
a. A prostitute
b. Honey and cream
c. An organ stop

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Patient victory

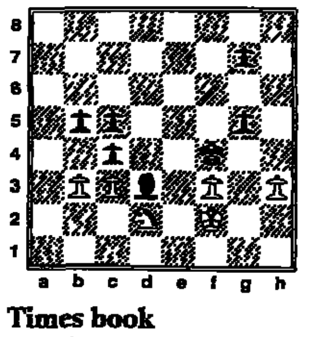
The young Hungarian Peter Leko achieved prominence when he broke the world record for becoming the youngest ever grandmaster (although he has since been overtaken by Etienne Bacrot, of France). Young players are sometimes impatient and in this game from the Hungarian championship the ultimate victor exploits this factor to win a long endgame.

White: Peter Leko
Black: Zoltan Almasi
Hungarian championship, Budapest 1997

Ruy Lopez

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	Nf6
4	0-0	Nxe4
5	d4	Nd6
6	Bxc6	dxc6
7	dxe5	Nf5
8	Qxd8+	Kxd8
9	Nc3	Ke8
10	Rd1	Ne7
11	Nd4	Ng6
12	Ne4	Be7
13	Re1	c5
14	Nb3	b6
15	Nf6+	Kf8
16	Nd5	Bd8
17	Nd2	c6
18	Ne3	Nxe5
19	Nec4	Ng6
20	Nf3	Bc7
21	Nce5	f6
22	Nxg6+	hxg6
23	h3	Kf7
24	Be3	g5
25	Nh2	Bf5
26	c3	Rae8
27	Ng4	Be6
28	f3	Kg6
29	Bf2	Bf4
30	Ne3	Re7
31	a4	Rhe8
32	Nf1	Bb3
33	Rxe7	Rxe7
34	a5	Re2
35	axb6	axb6
36	Ra6	Bc7
37	Bg3	Bd8
38	Bd6	Re6
39	Bg3	Bc4
40	Ra8	Be7
41	Ra1	f5
42	Re1	Rxe1
43	Bxe1	Bd3
44	Bf2	Bd6
45	Be3	Kf6
46	Nd2	Bg3
47	Nf1	Bc7
48	Nd2	c4
49	g4	c5
50	gxf5	Kxf5
51	Kf2	Bf4
52	Bxf4	Kxf4
53	b3 b5	White resigns

Diagram of final position



Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

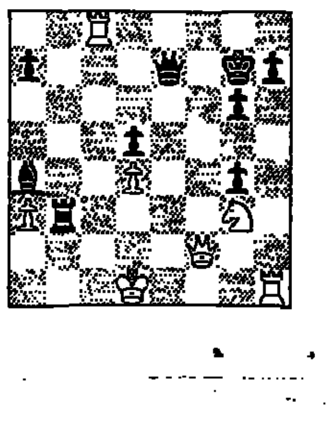
☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. From the game Speelman — Ree, Lone Pine 1975.

White is a rook up, but he is in trouble as Black is threatening a number of checks with his rook on b3. How did Speelman save himself from this predicament?



Solution on page 50

هكذا من الاهمال

RUGBY UNION

Sanderson sets out to confirm potential

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

THERE will be some young men grown old before their time after the three southern-hemisphere teams have left Britain next month. Two 20-year-olds, Matt Perry and Andy Long, have already tasted the international game and another, Patrick Sanderson, will play against the New Zealanders for the English Rugby Partnership XV at Ashton Gate this evening.

Sanderson, who has cemented a place in Sale's back row this season, is the older of two rugby-playing brothers developing fast under the eye of John Mitchell, now the England assistant coach. It is his second season with Sale after leaving Kirkham Grammar School and, at 6ft 4in and 16st, his is a formidable presence on the open-side flank.

With him will be the considerable experience of Tim Rodber and Chris Sheasby in a team including seven full internationals, of whom Rodber, Tim Stimpson, John Bentley and Mark Regan toured with the British Isles in the summer. There are marked distinctions, though, between this XV and the Emerging England side roasted 59-22 a week ago, significantly a youthful look among the tight forwards, where Phil Vickery and Rob Fidler have earned places.

That alone may be some comfort to the New Zealand management, which has expressed disappointment with England's selection policy for the midweek games. Changes have been rung — only five of this team appeared at Huddersfield — and there is a sensible core of West Country beef in the pack, which should ensure an enthusiastic reception from an expected crowd of around 20,000 in Bristol.

The return of Stimpson is particularly apposite in the wake of England's goal-kicking failure in the senior international against New Zealand last Saturday. Mike Catt had a dreadful day with the boot and the fact that Stimpson has recovered from injury should prove an aid to the recovery that David Alred, the England kicking coach, believes Catt will make.

"I think that Mike found himself caught up with the emotion of what was an amazing day at Old Trafford," Alred said. "His goalkicking and punting seemed a little bit tight in terms of flow and smoothness, but his execution of the restarts was great. Overall, I think Mike will have learnt an invaluable lesson."

Stimpson was the Lions' leading points-scorer in South Africa but his match fitness may be found wanting tonight against the All Blacks' midweek XV, which also scored 50 points against Wales A. There is a thunderous pursuit of the place alongside Frank Bunce in midfield, held at the moment by Alama Ieremia. Scott McLeod now has his chance alongside Jeremy Stanley.

Jon Preston starts a game at scrum half for the first time on tour and there is optimism in the New Zealand camp that Zinzan Brooke, who damaged an Achilles tendon against England, may yet be fit to play against Wales at Wembley on Saturday. Though sentimentality has little to do with All Black selections, Brooke needs two more games to record 100 appearances in New Zealand colours before he retires at the end of this tour.

"The aim of this match is to look at players before selecting the official England A team to play New Zealand at Leicester next week," Richard Hill, the A-team coach, said. Hill, wearing his hat as the Gloucester director of rugby, will also watch the displays of his three tights forwards, of whom Vickery, 21, the tighthead prop from Barnstaple, turns the scales at just under 20st.

There is also an unexpected call-up for Spencer Brown, the former Marines musician now playing an effective tune on the wing for Richmond. Brown, 24, may find Tana Umaga more of a handful than he is used to in the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

TEAMS

ENGLISH RUGBY PARTNERSHIP XV: T Stimpson (Newcastle); J Bentley (Newcastle), N Greenstock (Wasps), M Allen (Northampton) S Brown (Richmond), R Butland (Bath) M Wood (Wasps), K Yates (Bath) M Regan (Bath), P Vickery (Gloucester), R Fidler (Gloucester), D Sims (Gloucester) T Rodber (Northampton, captain) P Sanderson (Sale), C Sheasby (Wasps) Replacements. P Grayson (Northampton), S Benton (Gloucester), R Winters (Bedford), J Worsley (Wasps), V Ubogu (Bath) A Long (Bath)

NEW ZEALANDERS: T Miller, T Umaga, J Stanley S McLeod, G Osborne, C Spencer, J Preston M Allen, A Oliver C Barrell, C Riechelmann, M Cooksley, T Blackadder (captain), M Carter, A Hopa. Replacements: A Ieremia, W Little, M Robinson, S Surridge, G Slater, N Hewitt

Referee: R Davies (Wales)

Os du Randt takes centre stage during the South Africans' training session yesterday

South Africa keep faith with record performers

David Hands

finds the world champions in confident mood

A RELAXED, good-humoured South Africa squad enjoyed the first run-out of their brief visit to Great Britain at the Honourable Artillery Company ground in London yesterday. Successive victories over France and a confident new management team have helped to banish the blues of their domestic season, when they lost a series to the British Isles and struggled — like everyone else — to match New Zealand, in the tri-nations tournament.

No team had scored 50 points against France until the Springboks did so in Paris last Saturday and, however hard Nick Mallett, the South Africa coach, tried to play it down, there is no disguising the pleasure that he and his players take from turning their country's fortunes around.

With one exception, the same XV will play England at Twickenham on Saturday and even the exception has experience of that ground. Andrew Aitken, 29, comes late to international rugby: at 25, he won a Blue for Oxford University against Cambridge at Twickenham (and flirted with Scotland that same season): last year, he opted to play rugby league in Australia, but returned to Western Province and helped them to win the Currie Cup this year. The new management drafted him into the tour party, he came on as a replacement flanker for the injured Rassie Erasmus in Paris and will now start an international for the first time.

Erasmus took a blow to the head, but hopes to be fit for selection when South Africa conclude their tour against Scotland at Murrayfield on December 6.

"When a side performs as it did on Saturday, it doesn't make selection too difficult," Mallett, who succeeded Carel du Plessis as coach two months ago, said. "I thought we had the potential to play the rugby we did [against France], but I was surprised that it happened so quickly."

Mallett insisted that French heads dropped when South Africa scored one try after 48 seconds and built on their early lead with a 70-metre interception; contrary to some of his predecessors, he makes no expansive claims about South Africa's place in the global rankings. "I don't think we can be too critical of anyone at the moment," he said. "We are trying to find a playing platform and get back to a position where we can defend our World Cup crown."

Mallett has concentrated on success in the internationals and South African policy in future may be to send parallel parties on tour, one of which would play only international matches, the other would play provincial teams and provide back-up to the senior squad as and when required. They are due to play all four home unions next season, by which time their formidable reputation may well have restored some of its lustre.

SOUTH AFRICA: P C Montgomery (Western Province): J T Small (Western Province), A H Snyman (Northern Transvaal), D J Muir (Western Province), P W G Rossouw (Western Province): H W Honiball (Natal), W Swanepoel (Free State): J P du Randt (Free State), J Dalton (Gauteng), A C Garvey (Natal), K Otto (Northern Transvaal), M G Andrews (Natal), A D Aitken (Western Province), A G Venter (Free State), G H Teichmann (Natal, captain) Replacements: J Swart (Western Province) J H de Beer (Free State), D van Zyl (Mpumalanga), R B Skinstad (Western Province), W Meyer (Free State), A E Drotske (Free State)

Steele stands firm on unlucky sevens squad

JOHN STEELE, the director of rugby at London Scottish, has defended his club's decision not to make players available for the Scotland squad for the Dubai Sevens tournament next week.

"Our history of releasing players for international duty is second to none," Steele said yesterday. "We have always taken the view that we will make players available to play international rugby, but the Scottish Rugby Union can prioritise as it wants — we have to prioritise for our employees and look at how our investors and shareholders see things. At this stage of the year, sevens is not as important as league matches."

Dougie Morgan, the Scotland sevens manager, had already registered his disappointment at the unavailability of Derrick Lee and Simon Holmes for the trip. "I would have liked to think we could have expected more, particularly considering that it is London Scottish," he said, adding that there are no Allied Dunbar Premiership matches being played on the weekend in question.

Morgan's party has also been affected by the international against South Africa, at Murrayfield on December 6, and will be further depleted if Duncan Hodge continues to be part of the national squad's plans. The sevens players leave for Dubai on Sunday.

SCOTLAND SEVENS SQUAD: G Burns (Watsonians, captain) G Aitchison (Kelso) A Common (Glasgow Hawks), G Flockhart (Stirling Co) D Hodge (Watsonians), C Mather (Watsonians), M Moncrieff (Melrose), C Murray (Hawick), S Nichol (Melrose), N Penny (Watsonians)

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 49

CLARABELLA

(a) An organ stop with flute quality of tone. A metal or wood stop of 8-foot length and pitch. Nearly the same as the hohlflöte and keraulophon. From the Latin *clarus* bright and *bellus* beautiful. No definitive classification of organ stops is possible. New names are sometimes invented by organ-builders. And the older names vary in their significance with different periods, different countries, and different individual builders.

MICHIGANDER

(b) A native or inhabitant of the State of Michigan, on the Great Lakes of North America. Abraham Lincoln, 1848: "I mean the military tail you Democrats are now engaged in dovetailing on to the great Michigander."

MORENA

(c) The historical title given to a chief in Lesotho; hence a respectful form of address. The native name. "You meet a man on the road; he may simply say 'Lumela, Morena' (*Good morning, Chief*), and to this the reply is a drawn-out 'Eh!' "

DULCIANA

(c) An organ stop with diapason quality of tone. In Britain a small-scaled, soft, open metal diapason. The most generally useful soft stop on the organ. Usually of 8-foot length and pitch, but sometimes of 4-foot or 16-foot. In the United States the dulciana belongs to the string quality type.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Nf5+! gxf5 2 Rxh7+! Kxh7 3 Qxf5+ Kg7 4 Qxg4+ Kf6 5 Qf4+ Kg7 6 Qg4+ with a draw by perpetual check.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Slavery's black secret

Timewatch: The African Trade
BBC2, 9.00pm

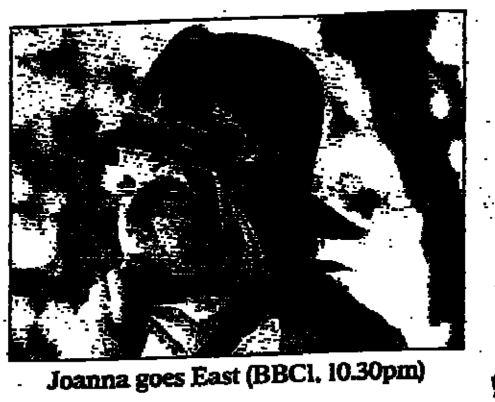
Jonathan Lewis's film will come as a shock to those brought up on the traditional view that selling Africans into slavery was an outrage perpetrated solely by the white man. Between the 16th and 19th centuries around 12 million Africans crossed the Atlantic. But, the film asks, as Europeans never ventured into the African interior, how did the slaves fall into their hands? The answer is that the Africans ran their own slave trade and had done so long before the Europeans arrived. Chief Nana Kwame Nkyi, head of a warrior tribe, tells how his ancestors raided villages and sold slaves for rum, sugar and bananas. African-Americans crossing the Atlantic to trace their roots are appalled to discover that slavery was as much a black institution as it was a white one.

Cutting Edge: An Englishman and His Horse
Channel 4, 9.00pm

In what is claimed to be a television first, the cameras are allowed behind the scenes of the Jockey Club which is responsible for enforcing discipline in horse racing. The film's director, Riete Oord, has a clear agenda. She wants to show how traditional the whole business is. Club rules are enforced by racecourse stewards, upper-crust chaps (and sometimes chapesses) with plummy accents who do the job for nothing in their spare time. Names such as Sieff and Hambro emphasise the pedigree. Jockeys accused of misusing the whip or interfering with other horses are hauled in like naughty schoolboys before the head. It is a master-servant relationship of almost feudal quality, and the irony is that this ritual depends on the latest video technology. But nobody says that the system does not work.

Back to the Floor: Crawling About
BBC2, 9.50pm

The latest boss to discover what life is like at the bottom is Peter Cottee of Terminex, the world's biggest pest control company. It has arrived in Britain, aiming to dominate the market. Cottee has been charged with doubling the size of the business. But Terminex is struggling to keep its staff. A quarter of the pest controllers left last year and Cottee wants to know why. His education begins on a council estate in South London. A day spent killing cockroaches opens Cottee's eyes to the squalid conditions in which his staff work, not to mention the stress of demanding schedules and angry customers. It soon becomes clear that Cottee is not cut out to be a pest controller. Meanwhile, the defections go on and he and his managers are compelled to realise how valuable their workforce is to the success of the company.



Joanna goes East (BBC1, 10.30pm)

Joanna Lumley in the Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon
BBC1, 10.00pm

Joanna Lumley retraces a journey made by her grandparents in the 1930s to the Kingdom of Bhutan, in the Himalayas between India and China. The purpose of the original trip was diplomatic, to invest the King of Bhutan with a British gong. Lumley's follow-up is partly to satisfy her curiosity and partly to provide a diverting 75 minutes. She plays things straighter than in her desert island documentary and only occasionally do we get flashes of Lumley in *Absolutely Fabulous* guise. But the trek through mountain passes and jungle sees enough mishaps and extremes of temperature to stave off boredom, while yielding surprises such as the Bhutanese fondness for bingo. Home movie footage from the 1931 expedition shows that Bhutan has not changed much.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Random Edition
Radio 4, 12.25pm

The third series of a programme that has been one of the more surprising radio successes, given that it has much the same genesis as *On This Day*. However, *Random Edition*, instead of taking a day from the past and reporting hard news, uses as its base a newspaper issue chosen at random in order to portray ordinary life of the time. The range of dates is from 1728 to 1963. Peter Snow is the presenter and today's opening programme uses *The Universal Spectator* and *Weekly Journal* for October 26, 1728. Some of the items have Monty Python overtones, including advice on coping with a dead parrot and how to deal with a wife who becomes addicted to gambling. Given the year, it's hard to blame Camelot.

File on 4
Radio 4, 7.20pm

In any given week this programme is often the best on radio for bringing to the fore issues that rarely make the mainstream news. Tonight's programme examines the alarming growth of tacit racial segregation in British schools. This is not a segregation imposed by the authorities but by black parents and children themselves. A recent survey showed that 38 per cent of teenagers from black families prefer to attend an all-black school. Places are hard to get at private schools provided exclusively for black children and many parents are sending their children to boarding schools abroad. Mark Whittaker reports on whether these developments mean the schools system has failed to cover the needs of ethnic minorities.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoë Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley. *Includes* **12.30pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Dave Pearce **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session with Steve Lamacq **8.30** Digital Update **8.40** Mystery Presenter. A special stand-in for John Peel **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Richard Stilgoe's Classical Gas **8.00** Nigel Ogden **9.00** Tickling the Ivories. Featuring Ronnie Barker, Joseph Cooper and Fats Waller **9.30** I Take Thee **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** John Tarrett

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide with Julian Worricker **7.00** News Extra. David McNeil with a round-up of the day's news **7.30** The Tuesday Match Action from the third round of the UEFA Cup, plus news from the FA Cup **10.00** News Talk **11.00** News Extra **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night with Rhod Sharp **5.00** Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark **7.00** Chris Evans **10.00** **(FM)** Robin Banks **(AM)** Graham Dene **1.00pm** **(FM)** Nick Abbot **(MW)** Nicky Horne **4.00** Russ 'n' Jono **7.00** **(FM)** Paul Coyte **(AM)** Carmin Jones **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffen **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Anna Raeburn **9.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf: The Handmaid's Tale **7.30** Options **8.00** News **8.10** Pause for Thought **8.15** Concert Hall **9.00** News; News in German (648 only) **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** The Deal with Drugs **9.30** Literature File: The Mill on the Floss **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** On Screen **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** What Do Christians Believe? **12.00** News **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Health Matters **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack Hit List **3.00** News; News in German (648 only) **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** *Westway* **3.30** The Greenfield Collection **4.00** News **4.15** Waveguide **4.30** The World Today; News in German (648 only) **4.45** Britain Today **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** One Planet; News in German (648 only) **7.00** News **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Pause for Thought **7.30** Megamix **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Live **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.05** Outlook **11.30** Megamix **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30am** The Farming World **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Discovery **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Meridian Live **3.00** News **3.05** World Business Report **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** One Planet **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe Today **5.00** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Alan Mann. Includes Morning March and Breakfast Baroque **9.00** Henry Kelly. Includes The Classic Masterpiece and a recipe for vegetable curry **1.00pm** Listener Request Hour with Jane Jones **2.00** Concerto. Vivaldi (Four Seasons) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Newsnight. Arts issues and news updates, with John Brunning **7.30** Sonata. Zelenka (Sonata No 3 in B flat) **8.00** Evening Concert. Bloch (Concerto Grosso No 1); Arvo Part (Cantus in Memoriam Benjamin Britten); Britten (Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge); Respighi (Three Botticelli Pictures); Shostakovich (Chamber Symphony) **10.00** Michael Mappin **2.00am** Concerto. Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Byrd (Peccavi Super Numerum); Ireland (Phantasie Trio in A minor); Ketelby (In a Monastery Garden); Chopin (Fantaisie-Impromptu in C sharp minor); Weber (Overture Oberon)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Liszt (Grand Studies after Paganini Nos 4-6); Vaughan Williams (Towards the Unknown Region); Brahms (Hungarian Dances Nos 2 and 5); Part (Festina Lente), Poulenc (Suite Les Biches)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Mary Miller. Mendelssohn (Altdeutschtes; Fruhlingslied); Musgrave (Orfeo II); Daniele Gasparini (Through the Looking Glass), Schumann (Muttertraum; Der Soldat; Der Spielman): Schubert (Symphony No 10 in D); Edward McGuire (Homage to Rodrigo); Schubert (Lied eines Schiffers an die Dioskuren; Der Zurnenden Diana)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Massenet
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Stravinsky Plus. Vladimir Ovchinikov, piano. Scriabin (Sonata No 3 in F sharp minor); Rachmaninov (Sonata No 2 in B flat minor, original version): Stravinsky (Russian Dance, Petrushka)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Symphony Orchestra under Jiri Belohlavek and Andrew Davis. Kathryn Stott, piano, Dmitri Sitkovetsky, violin. Rossini (Overture William Tell); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 1 in E flat): Shostakovich (Violin Concerto No 1; Symphony No 15)
4.00 Voices (r)
4.45 Music Machine. Verity Sharp tours Liverpool in search of the Mersey Beat
5.00 In Tune. Sean Rafferty talks to the composer Michael Torke in New York
7.45 Performace on 3: Paris, City of Light. Live from the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, a recital by the soprano Felicity Lott, who is joined by the pianist Jonathan Hinden. Schubert (Gott im Frühling; Erlafsee; Des Mädchens Klage; An den Mond; Frühlingsglaube); Strauss (Das Rosenband; Ich Wollt ein Sträusslein Binden; Blauer Sommer; In Goldener Fulle; Waldseligkeit; Kling) **8.25** Brilliant Creatures. Benjamin Ivry considers the extraordinary home of Isabella Stewart Gardner in Boston **8.45** Concert, part two. Chabrier (L'Ile Heureuse; Chansons pour Jeanne; Lied; Romance de l'Etoile; Toutes les Fleurs); Barber (Sure on this Shining Night; Promiscuity; The Monk and His Cat; A Nun Takes the Veil; Solitary; I Hear an Army)
9.45 Designs for Living (Sounding the Century). Susan Marling travels to the USA to see Frank Lloyd Wright's famous house Fallingwater
10.10 The BBC Orchestras. BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Richard Hickox, Howard Shelley, piano. Tippett (Piano Concerto)
10.45 Night Waves. Music, love and yellow stockings are on the agenda tonight as Shakespeare's most popular comedy, *Twelfth Night*, opens the RSC's new season at Stratford
11.30 Composer of the Week: Strauss (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Call Ed Stourton
10.00 (FM) Mean Times Australia: Front Line Missionary. In June 1926 fourteen people rode onto the Mamdoc Aboriginal reserve in search of the murderers of a white stockman. Some weeks later, almost 100 Aborigines were dead, their bodies dismembered and burnt in an attempt to conceal the evidence (6/6)
10.00 (LW) Daily Service
10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler
10.30 Women's Hour, with Jenni Murray
11.30 Medicine Now. New series in which Geoff Watts reports on the health of medical care
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Margaret Collins
12.25pm Random Edition. See Choice (1/6) **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Thirty Minute Theatre: Getting On, by Aodhan Madden. A middle-aged Dublin bachelor struggles to cope with the recent death of his father. Starring Barry McGovern
2.30 Mirrored in Music. Andrew Green talks to Swedish soprano Elisabeth Soderstrom (4/6)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan
4.00 News; 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan considers the breadth of the composer Prokofiev's work, from film music to symphonies. Plus, reviews of Walter Mosley's new short stories
4.45 Short Story: Father and Son, by W.A. Harbinson. A young boy tries to come to terms with having to visit his mother's grave for the first time
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Imperial Palace. The final instalment of Arnold Bennett's classic novel set in the 1930s (4/4) (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 File on 4. See Choice
8.00 Science Now, with Peter Evans (r)
8.30 The Network Alun Lewis presents the series that guides you through the information age
9.00 In Touch, with Peter White
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r)
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Another Time, Another Place Jessie Kesson's account of an Aberdeenshire farm which takes on foreign workers in 1944. Abridged by Brian McCabe, read by Vicki Masson (2/10)
11.00 Mediumwave (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
11.30 (FM) Sentimental Journey. Janet Street Porter extols the virtues of the Cornish landscape and introduces Arthur Smith to a community of local artists, including Patrick Heron (2/6) (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Bright Lights, Big City. Jay McInerney's classic tale of 1980s hedonism — Manhattan style. Read by Chris Elgeman (7/9) (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.

Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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Vanity fare no longer a female prerogative

REVIEW

Joe Joseph

Now that even men crave a face so smooth that it has fewer flaws than a bungalow, beauty is no longer just a female obsession. Until recently, a man's bathroom cabinet contained four razor blades, a shirt-collar stiffener for scooping our earwax, and some Tippex correction fluid for crucial last-minute office chores, such as whitening a stained shirt collar. Grooming was something for sweaty ponies.

But nowadays the same men who once spent Saturday afternoons buying power drills go to try the latest banana-and-guava moisturiser in Body Shop instead. To look back on it, it is very possible that the British male's famous stiff upper lip has always owed less to sang-froid than to insufficient applications of moisturiser: maybe the British Empire was built on nothing more intrepid than dry skin.

Many men now even wax their chests. I did it once, for purely *professional purposes* (No! professional as in journalistic, not as in Chippendales). If you want to get a flavour of just how much chest-waxing hurts, try this experiment at home: manacle yourself to a wall, superglue Desert Orchid's rump to your chest and then shout "giddy-up". *That's* how much.

So, given men's vanity, why was last night's **Trade Secrets** (BBC2), containing tips from beauty therapists, aimed exclusively at women? A few of the tips were unisex, such as: "Never throw away your old tea pads. Keep them in the fridge and use them as eye pads when your eyes are tired or really puffy." So was the home-made skin-toner, made by blending tomatoes, cucumber and vodka, but most men would probably want to taste it to make sure that they had got the proportions right. Applying mashed chickpeas to your face sounded too *high* a price to pay for ingrowing hairs, although I might remember to polish my nails with smoker's toothpaste if they ever become that dirty (how do women get their nails so filthy?).

As for the tip about making your lipstick last longer by "layering it with talc", it explained why men who have embraced moisturisers, toners and depilation have steered clear of lipstick. I think men would need a 13-part series devoted just to lipstick-applying to get the hang of even the basics of lip-puckering and pressing-together. "Layering it with talc" would require a second series.

But the reason why men haven't gone the whole hog, vanity-wise, came in the programme's final tip of tips: "Avoid tea, coffee, avoid hot spicy foods, avoid alcohol, avoid tight clothing. So really, avoid everything that you enjoy." Men, because of their genetic make-up, are forced to eat curries and drink alcohol, especially on any day that happens to end with the letter "y".

But male vanity is not altogether new: 18th-century dandies put dowdy English women to shame, and until puritan Victorians came tut-tutting along, every English gentleman would sooner go hungry than skimp on his supplies of powder puffs, rouge, curling irons, oils, creams and eyebrow blackeners. Nowadays, men who still nurse such cravings find a useful outlet in pantomime. We saw them all in their pancake and powdered wigs in **Pantoland**, a new four-part Channel 4 series that is lifting the curtain on the only bunch of actors who regard it a professional success to be booed off the stage by 500 excited eight-year-olds. "Behind you!" is as close to "Bravo!" as they get.

Shows such as *Cinderella*, *Snow White* and *Mother Goose* provide work every winter to a changing constellation of young actors and dancers, although the stars remain much the same: Danny La Rue, Matthew Kelly, John Inman, and Tony Blair's estranged brother, Lionel — his perma-grin making him ever-prepared for those unexpected photographers who presumably pester panto stars. Lionel Blair is a man who is always saying cheese. And, for the most part, acting it, too.

The silver-haired Paul Elliott, a sort of panto mogul, puts on 20 productions a year, having spent most of the summer cajoling people such as La Rue to spend his winter in Sheffield: Danny, to his credit, didn't crease up his face in horror — maybe for fear of cracking his foundation. But he implored Paul: "Next year, please God, maybe Southampton." It's a business that turns over £8 million annually. A lot is at stake, so rehearsal schedules are punishing.

We saw Lionel, without using his hands, rehearsing a mesmerising sequence from *Snow White* in which he manoeuvres a large purple balloon down Inman's chest, under Inman's legs, and then up Inman's back. It's very possible that Blair is one of the few men in Britain supple enough to do this. He is almost certainly the only person who would want to.

Although fascinating, **Equinox: When Pigs Ruled The World** (Channel 4) was also confusing. The beasts who roamed across the globe 250 million years ago, and who were recreated here using *Jurassic Park*-style animatronic technology, were proto-mammals called lystrosaurs. They weren't pigs at all. They didn't look anything like pigs. They *were* roughly the *size* of pigs and "they eked out a pig-like existence, anything they could find". So why the title? Because, according to Sara Ramsden, who was the commissioning editor at Channel 4: "We're up against tough competition in our new Monday slot. Anything that makes our programmes more accessible can only be a good thing."

So look out for tonight's Channel 4 weather forecast: it's the show in the TV listings that's called "A close-up of Isabelle Adjani, naked."

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (90458)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (95816)
9.00 Good Living How to create a Teletubbyland, an Advent calendar and perfect meringues (5342090)
9.25 Style Challenge (5361125)
9.50 Kilroy (T) (1229057)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (7919089)
10.55 The Really Useful Show (T) (7656729)
11.35 Change That (2667390)
12.00 News (T) (6039361)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (5410859)
12.35 Give Us A Clue (2065458)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) and weather (98903)
1.30 Regional News (84179670)
1.40 The Weather Show (59637835)
1.45 Neighbours (97419800)
2.10 Snooker: UK Championship Fourth-round action from Preston (6551895)
3.30 Playdays (8900293) **3.50** Arthur (8911309) **4.15** Fudge (1713570) **4.35** It'll Never Work (1526293) **5.00** Newsround (T) (5267816) **5.10** Byker Grove (T) (9118816)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (130632)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (T) (767)
6.30 Regional News (449)
7.00 Holiday Jill Dando motors in Arizona; Zoe Ball samples watersports in Corfu; Monty Don visits a dog-friendly hotel in Worcestershire; Sankha Guha takes a family trip to Sicily; and John Holdsworth is in Jersey (T) (3651)
7.30 EastEnders (T) (903)
8.00 Mysteries with Carol Vorderman A recovery from cancer that defied medical explanation and a claim that Friday the 13th really is unlucky (T) (9699)
8.30 A Question of Sport Guests are England defender Stuart Pearce, golfer Lee Westwood, rugby union star Neil Jenkins and England cricketer Graham Thorpe (T) (8106)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News Followed by Regional News and weather (4748)
9.30 One Foot in the Grave Victor and Margaret agree to pet-sit for a friend (r) (78564) **WALES: 9.30** Week In, Week Out (78564) **10.00** One Foot in the Grave (55125) **10.30** Joanna Lumley in the Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon (8123835) **11.45** FILM: Same Time, Next Year (1978) (772038) **1.40am** News (9093626) **1.45** BBC News 24
10.00 Joanna Lumley in the Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon The actress and her cousin, *nicknamed Maybe, go on a pilgrimage to* the mysterious and beautiful country of Bhutan (T) (4744835)
11.20 Same Time, Next Year (1978) FILM Bittersweet drama adapted from the Broadway smash with Alan Alda and Ellen Burstyn playing an adulterous couple who fall in love on holiday, and carry on their affair for 25 years, meeting for only one week a year of illicit passion. Directed by Robert Mulligan (791903) **WALES:** FAW *Invitational Cup 12.20am-*2.20 Film: Same Time Next Year
1.10am BBC News 24

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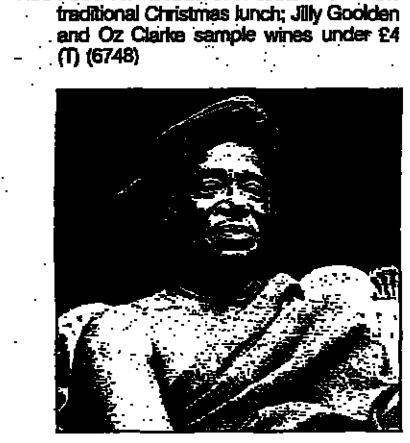
BBC2

6.00am Arts: The Leathart Collection (44767) **6.30** Nathan the Wise (66816)
7.00 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (5286057)
7.15 Teletubbies (r) (4640800) **7.40** The Perils of Penelope Pitstop (r) (2097941) **8.05** Blue Peter (r) (T) (2712670) **8.25** Oakie Doke (r) (9290583) **8.35** Rupert (r) (4375564) **8.45** The Record (9370019) **9.10** Practising Belief (7692057) **9.25** See You, See Me (2957274) *9.45 Numbertime* (4267748) **10.00** Teletubbies (80496) **10.30** Watch (4666467) **10.45** Science Zone (2179816) **11.05** Space Ark (8006038) **11.15** Megamaths (T) (1384651) **11.35** History File (4467372) **12.00** See Hear (r) (T) (52038)
12.30pm Working Lunch (89670) **1.00** Fiddley Foodle Bird (r) (58260318) **1.10** The History Hour from Richmond (6100632) **2.10** Going, Going, Gone (62270583) **2.40** News (3112632)
2.45 Westminster Special with David Dimbleby Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, outlines his strategy for the economy (T) (604816)
4.45 Snooker: UK Championship Fourth-round coverage (1419583)
6.00 Heartbreak High (991477)
6.45 Snooker: UK Championship Round-up of today's action (123309)
7.30 From the Edge Reports on issues affecting disabled people (545)
8.00 Top Gear Rally Report Final day highlights (4011)
8.30 Food and Drink An unusual twist on the traditional Christmas lunch; Jilly Goolden and Oz Clarke sample wines under £4 (T) (6748)

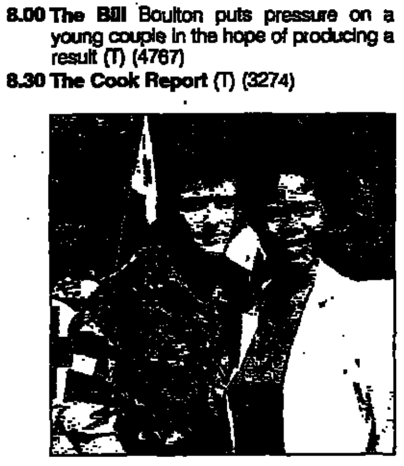


Chief Nana Kwane Nkyi XII (9.00pm)

9.00 Timewatch Investigation into the often-ignored black involvement in slavery. Chief Nana Kwane *Nkyi XII denies his ancestors had any* invovlement in the evil trade (T) (686944)
9.50 Back to the Floor: Crawling About Company boss Peter Cottee returns to the front line of pest control (T) (340019)
10.20 Best Friends Two primary school pals tell the story of their camaraderie (T) (937854)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (401212)
11.15 Snooker: UK Championship Highlights of the final best-of-17 fourth-round matches (736670)
11.55 Weather (259361)
12.00 The Midnight Hour (1701442)
12.25am Weather (7774423)
12.30 Learning Zone: The Making of Germaine Greer (5348336) **12.35** Great Civilisations (9783607) **1.00** Seville: The Edge of Empire (54539) **1.30** Seville: Gateway to the Indies (60688) **2.00** Schools: Business Studies (47997) **4.00** Languages: Deutsch Plus 5-8 (90249) **5.00** Career Moves — Conservation (41713)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (4814380)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (5347545)
9.55 Regional News (6864274)
10.00 The Time, the Place (77922)
***10.30 This Morning** (48140019)*
12.20pm Regional News (6035545)
12.30 News (T) and weather (2084583)
12.55 Shortland Street (2069274) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (59294877) **1.50** The *Rockford Files (5338800)* ***2.50*** *Vanessa:* You Can't Marry My Daughter (T) (6400835)
3.20 News (T) (8712293)
3.25 Regional News (T) (8711564)
3.30 The Riddlers (3636212) **3.40** Wizadora (1925564) **3.50** The Adventures of Paddington Bear (1921748) **4.00** Zzzap! (9781458) **4.15** Hey Arnold! (T) (9713390) **4.40** The Ward (T) (9672293)
5.10 WALES: Don't Try This At Home, Kids! (9670767)
5.10 Relative Knowledge (9670767)
5.40 News (T) and weather (306748)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (157835)
6.25 Regional Weather (476534)
6.30 Regional News (T) (187)
7.00 Emmerdale Zak takes up busking to earn money for Christmas; Tony and Emma come to an understanding (T) (5019)
7.30 WALES: Your Century: Barry Welsh history over the last century and into the next millenium (699)
7.30 Take 3 (699)
8.00 The Bill Boulton puts pressure on a young couple in the hope of producing a result (T) (4767)
8.30 The Cook Report (T) (3274)



Nealon and Moshesh (9.00pm)

9.00 Soldier, SoldierChain of Command Forsythe (Ben Nealon) suffers an explosive reunion with his former wife, Lilian (Nthanti Moshesh) (T) (6458)
10.00 News (T) and weather (40293)
10.30 Regional News and weather (885380)
10.40 Savage Earth: Restless Planet A look at earthquakes, drawing together astonishing stories of heroism and survival from Mexico to Japan. Narrated by Ian Holm (T) (976941)
11.40 WALES: Highlander (193941)
11.40 Brief Encounters (T) (220699)
12.10am Movie Show Special (5817572)
12.35 Planet Mirth (7753930)
1.05 Late and Loud (6530997)
2.05 The Chart Show (r) (7698210)
3.00 Football Extra (r) (4876591)
3.50 World of Sailing (r) (56318046)
4.20 Sound Bites (40244152)
4.35 The Time, the Place (r) (93375220)
5.00 Heirloom (r) (40602)
5.30 News (91997)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (2069274)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9670767)
6.25-7.00 Central News (431670)
7.30-8.00 The Tuesday Special *(699)*
11.40 Highlander (384941)
12.45am Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (6519404)
1.20 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (2444065)
1.40 War of the Worlds (5690404)
2.30 The Paul Ross Show (9491442)
3.55 Central Jobfinder '97 (5699256)
5.20 Asian Eye *(9949688)*

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (6035545)
12.55 Home and Away (7063835)
1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (79163835)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9670767)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (68187)
7.30-8.00 Blooming Marvellous: On the Road (699)
11.40 Highlander (193941)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9670767)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (835)
6.30-7.00 Relative Knowledge (187)
7.30-8.00 Ambulance! (699)
11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (193941)
5.00am Freescreen (40602)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 Fashion Police (2069274)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9670767)
6.23 Anglia Weather (250203)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (431670)
7.30-8.00 Out to Lunch with Brian Turner (699)
11.40 First Take (220699)
12.10am Short Story Cinema (5817572)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (11854)
9.00 Ysgolion (808903)
11.30 Powerhouse (1651)
12.00 Sesame Street (47106)
12.30pm Ricki Lake (81038)
1.00 Slot Meithrin (42965926)
1.15 Pingu (51410831)
1.30 The Living Sea (80309)
2.00 Racing from Huntingdon and Worcester (6699)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (800)
4.30 United Tastes of America (212)
5.00 5 Pump: Uned 5 (6125)
5.30 Countdown (564)
6.00 Newyddion (520767)
6.10 Heno (906309)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (261922)
7.25 Y Brodyr Bach (543309)
8.00 Y Sioe Gelf (2309)
8.30 Newyddion (1816)
9.00 Y Palmant Aur (4800)
10.00 Brookside (717125)
10.35 Frasier (302106)
11.05 Film: Peeping Tom (422361)
1.00am-2.00 Streets of Fire (80539)

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (16496)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (11854)
9.00 Schools: Science in Focus (T) (5262800) **9.22** Lost Animals (1708274) **9.30** Eureka! (T) (4257361) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (T) (4257361) **10.00** Fourways Farm (4359187) **10.00** TVM (T) (8911011) **10.25** How We Used to Live (T) (9266908) **10.45** Quest (T) (4206800) **11.00** First Edition (3184038) **11.15** *Stage One (T) (3167361)*
11.30 Powerhouse Political magazine (T) (1651) **12.00** Sesame Street (47106) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (84854) **1.30** The Living Sea: Killers of the Deep (r) (T) (80309)
2.00 Racing from Huntingdon and Worcester Live coverage of the **2.10, 2.40, 3.10** and **3.40** from Huntingdon and the **2.25** from Worcester (6699)
***4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (800)* **4.30** Countdown (T) (1510632) **4.55** Ricki Lake (T) (9367187) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (564)
6.00 Moviewatch The film review series' 100th show (477)
6.30 Roseanne *At a family Thanksgiving* dinner, peace breaks out (r) (T) (729)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (554800)
7.55 Get Sorted How to give yourself a home haircut (945632)
8.00 Deals on Wheels Advice on buying a second-hand car (T) (3/6) (2309)
8.30 Brookside How far will Barry go to get his money? Will Lindsay take Jackie's advice? (T) (1816)

Viscount Head takes a close look (9pm)

9.00 Cutting Edge: The *Englishman and His Horse* A look at the secretive and select world of the Jockey Club stewards who count Viscount Head, David Sieff and Richard Hambro among their number. Last in series (T) (4800)
10.00 Underworld Comedy drama serial starring James Fleet and Susan Wooldridge. William and Susan seek protection from Middlemass (T) (4/6) (2457309)
11.05 Rory Bremner — Who Else? (r) (T) (732854)
11.45 Citizens Band (1977) Charles Napier FILM and Paul LeMat star in this comedy about a small American town inhabited by CB fanatics. *Directed by Jonathan Demme* (T) (916545)
1.30am Late Night Ricki Lake: The Cops Stop Me For No Reason at All (r) (T) (5601510)
2.15 The Bureau *FBI agents who investigated* America's Communist Party speak out (2/4) (r) (T) (498355) **3.15** Tribal Cops (r) (T) (88065) **3.45** Photo Romans (r) (T) (44707125)
4.00 Schools. *Geographical Eye Over Britain* 2 (85317) **5.00** Geographical Eye Special (36881)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. **Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will** *be able to receive the channel free of* charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02 and 7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News Early (2389361)
7.30 Milkshake! (4042903) **7.35** Stickin' Around (6443854) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (8796859)
8.30 WideWorld How the Internet and computers in general can be used to advance learning (3/5) (8695800)
9.00 Espresso (2331106) **10.00** Exclusive (r) (8438458) **10.30** Period Rooms (r) (T) (9241944)
11.00 Leeza (7086212) **11.50** Double Espresso (94260212) **12.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (5546336) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (8273545)
1.00 5 News Update (47149011) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (3062019) **2.00** 5's Company (8439187)
3.00 The Baron and the Kid (1984) with FILM Johnny Cash and Greg Webb. A made-for-television drama about a former pool professional whose career has been *destroyed by his addiction to alcohol.* During an attempt to dry out he meets a young hustler who turns out to be his son. Directed by Gary Nelson (58341835)
4.50 100 Per Cent (19755380)

Sandra Huggett as Holly (5.20pm)

5.20 Family Affairs Holly is upset by Chris's remarks (T) (68024106)
5.50 Exclusive A special programme focusing on Sylvester Stallone (8632019)
6.00 5 News (T) (3417380)
6.30 Uefa Cup Football — Live The third *round, first-leg game in Hungary between* Steaua Bucharest and Aston Villa. Kick-off is at **6.45** (44667835)
NB: Subsequent programmes may run late
8.50 Pointman (1994) with Jack Scalia and FILM Bruce A. Young. A thriller about a Wall Street accountant who is framed and sent to prison for a crime he did not commit. When he is released he sets out to wreak revenge on those responsible. Directed by Robert Ellis Miller (64824477)
10.40 Bring Me the Head of Light Entertainment Comedy (r) (6848274)
11.10 The Jack Docherty Show Comedy and chat (4042941)
11.55 Prisoner: Cell Block H (8560922)
12.55am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine. Includes, at **1.50**, motor sport from around the world and **3.45** football from the Latin American leagues (8845816)
4.35 The Streets of San Francisco Police drama series (7086881)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (2249171)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY 1

6.00am *Morning Glory (222854)* ***8.00*** *Hotel* (60729) **10.00** Another World (52125) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (32361) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (15019) **1.00pm** Geraldo (24767) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (41859) **3.00** Jenny Jones (24293) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (30800) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (7496) **6.00** Dream Team (5318) **6.30** *Married...with* Children (4038) **7.00** *The Simpsons* (8125) **7.30** Real TV (3922) **8.00** Rescue Paramedics (4545) **8.30** Coppers (8390) **9.00** When Disaster Strikes II (43816) **10.00** The Extraordinary (48903) **11.00** Star Trek: Voyager (53854) **12.00** Late Show (35980) **1.00am** In the Heat of the Night (87125) **2.00** Long Play (5006133)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00am Goldilocks and the Three Bears (1995) (26701038) **7.45 The Thief Who Came to Dinner** (1973) (51146106) ***9.30*** **An American Christmas Carol** (1979) (33373922) **11.15 Panic in the Skies** (1996) (53060106) **1.00pm The Thief Who Came to Dinner** (1973) (41831) **3.00 Little Giants** (1994) (45670) **5.00 Goldilocks and the Three Bears** (1995) (75903) **7.00 Panic in the Skies** (1996) (59038) **9.05 Executive Decision** (1996) (20548038) **11.20 Castle Freak** (1994) (829962) **12.55am The Infiltrator** (1995) (358510) **2.30 Forbidden Beauty** (1995) (843572) ***4.05 Black Belt Jones*** (1974) (728152)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.00am Nocturne (1946) (82187) **8.00 Inhumanoids: The Movie** (1986) (10651) **10.00 Joy of Living** (1938) (21670) **12.00 Semi-Precious** (1995) (91354) **2.00pm Nocturne** (1946) (68125) **4.00 Time Warrior: The Human Pets** (1995) (3670) **6.00 Ditchdigger's Daughters** (1997) (78748) **8.00 Death Benefit** (1996) (30090) **10.00 Dead Man Walking** (1995) (52561293) **12.10am Black Scorpion** (1995) (371201) ***1.45 Hard Evidence*** *(1994) (268628)* **3.25 Bedlam** (1946) (6597084) **4.45 Black Tulip** (1988) (2551064)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The Rains Came (1939) *(1843293)* ***6.00 Santa Claus: The Movie*** (1984) (2327632) **8.00 Nine to Five** (1980) (2339477) **10.00 The Beast** (1988) (9230748) **11.55 Satisfaction** (1988) (2527800) ***1.30am*** **Rosemary's Baby** (1968) (61610626) ***3.45*** **Rachel and the Stranger** (1948) (2723978)

TNT

9.00pm Ask Any Girl *(1959) (88181748)* ***11.00 Crazy in Love*** *(1992) (84198496)* ***1.00am All This and Heaven Too*** *(1940)* *(73135268)* ***3.30 Hysteria*** *(1965)* *(26959046)* **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (82380) **7.30** League Review (78187) **8.00** V-Max (25869) **8.30** Sports Centre (96380) **9.00** Racing News (66632) **9.30** Aerobics (22922) **10.00** Spanish Primera Liga (19458) **12.00** Aerobics (55516) **12.30pm** Football Special (82458) ***2.30*** *Spanish Primera Liga (80903)* **4.30** Windsurfing (7767) **5.00** Wrestling (8390) **6.00** Sports Centre (8632) **6.30** Tartan Extra (2212) **7.00** Cricket: South Africa v West Indies (394011) **10.00** Sports Centre (81425) **10.30** Footballers' Football Show (87767) **11.30** Tartan Extra (64496) **12.00** Sports Centre (41930) **12.30am** Cricket: World Masters (2030249) **3.30** Footballers' Football Show (93969) **4.30** Sports Centre (89662) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics (2214449) **7.30** Sports Centre (3789534) **8.00** Racing News (8718903) **8.30** Fish TV (9018125) **9.30** Football League Review (4624423) **10.00** Cricket: World Masters (7464767) **1.00pm** World Motor Sport (6587476) **4.00** WTA Kremlin *Cup (2288870)* ***6.00*** *Sports Unlimited* (7988598) **7.00** Sports Centre (2274835) **7.30** FA Cup First Round Replay — Live (5541584) **10.00** NHL (7257361) **12.00** V-Max (8507930) **12.30am** FA Cup (4071959) **2.00** Sports Centre (1852297) **2.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Wrestling (82535477) **1.00** Fish TV (62544125) **2.00** Big League Classics (84186019) **3.30** NHL (95868090) **5.30** BT/RYA Match Racing Finals (35831498) **6.30** Survival of the Fittest (55768274) **7.00** Fish TV (30491651) **7.30** ERP XV v New Zealand — Live (95611632) **9.30** Fish TV (62536106) **10.00** Superbouts (89196670) **11.00** Golden Moments of the Olympic Games (84093309) **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am 4x4 Off Road (96583) **8.00** Speedworld (59212) **9.00** World White Water Rafting Championships (33699) **10.00** NASCAR (92767) **11.00** Eurogoals (30670) **12.30pm** World Cup Dream Team (28106) **1.00** Kitz Alp Bike (83019) **1.30** Dolomitenman (22651) **2.30** Windsurfing (2699) **3.00** X-Games (64835) **4.00** Tractor Pulling (78870) **5.00** Truck Racing (3908) **6.00** Freeride (6800) **6.30** X-Games (7380) **7.00** UEFA Cup Third Round, First Leg — Live (2654090) **11.30** X-Games (81496) **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Worzel Gummidge (8941057) **7.35** Neighbours (8090670) **8.00** Crossroads (3872458) **8.25** EastEnders (1269835) **9.00** The Bill (8702922) **9.30** Howards' Way (9732380) **10.00** Bless This House (6064038) **10.30** Sullivans (8708106) **11.00** Boon (4901212) **12.00** Crossroads (14580038) **12.25** Neighbours (14583125) **12.55** EastEnders (1835835) **1.30** Hi-De-Hi (3109670) **2.10** 2point4 Children (7655922) **2.50** Last of the Summer Wine (2311545) **3.30** The Bill (7622458) **4.00** Juliet Bravo (78678903) ***5.05*** EastEnders (6494632) **5.40** Full House (7032854) **5.25** That's Showbusiness (6066458) **7.00** Last of the Summer Wine (4308651) **7.45** Liver Birds (7113390) **8.20** 2point4 Children (1597922) **9.00** The Bill (1419187) **9.30** Spender (25683903) **10.35** French and Saunders *(2841318)* ***11.15*** *Canned Carrot (1861851)* **11.55** **FILM: Carry on Abroad** (1972) (4464038) **1.30am** Live at Jongleurs (2518794) **2.00** Miami Vice (1425288) **2.50** Shopping (24540084)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (9166354) **7.00** Coronation St (8050361) **7.30** Families (8079496) **8.00** Blind Date (9084038) **9.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (3768903) **10.00** The Professionals (8068390) **11.00** Hart to Hart (8055816) **12.00** Coronation St (2908702) **12.30pm** Families (2597941) **1.00** Blind Date (2592496) **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (3168496) **3.00** Donahue (9324832) **4.00** The Professionals (9343767) **5.00** Hawaii Five-O (1241125) **6.00** Families (2385767) **6.30** Coronation St (2378019) **7.00** Blind Date (7947816) ***8.00*** *Hart to Hart (7956564)* **9.00** Coronation St (9332651) **9.30** Hale and Pace (2584477) **10.00** Hawaii Five-O (7946187) **11.00** Close

CARLTON SELECT (cable)

5.00pm *Gridlock (30493019)* ***5.30*** *Hey Dad II (56785941)* **6.00** Blockbusters (55782854) **6.30** A Country Practice (55773106) **7.00** My Two Wives (30406583) **7.30** Our House (55762090) **8.00** Desmond's (30482903) **8.30** Women with Bells (30401038) **9.00** Shine On, Harvey Moon (89175187) **10.00** The Price (89178274) **11.00** St Elsewhere (84143496) **12.00** Let the Blood Run Free (15542152) **12.30am** Tales of the Unexpected (34203713) **1.00** Close

Susan Sarandon offers support to Sean Penn (Screen 2, 10.00pm)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Dumbo's Circus **6.30** Umbrella Tree **7.00** Aladdin: The Series **7.30** Quack Pack **8.00** Dinosaurs **8.30** Bonkers **9.00** Gummi Bears **9.30** Grounding Marsh **9.55** Small Stories **10.00** Sesame St **11.00** Winnie the Pooh **11.15** Rosie and Jim **11.35** Sing Me a Story **12.00** Tots TV **12.25pm** Big Garage **12.45** Winnie the Pooh **1.00** Sesame St **2.00** Amazing Animals **2.30** Gummi Bears **3.00** Tale Spin **3.30** Goof Troop **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa **4.30** Aladdin: The Series **5.00** Gargoyles **5.30** Dinosaurs **6.00** Blossom **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Home Improvement **7.30** Wonder Years **8.00** **FILM: Return of the Shaggy Dog** **9.30** Home Improvement

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Defly **6.30** Billy the Cat **7.00** Pinocchio **7.30** Power Rangers Zeo **8.00** Beetleborgs **8.30** Masked Rider **9.00** Magic Box **9.30** Dudley the Dragon **10.00** Inspector Gadget **10.30** Samurai Pizza Cats **11.00** Sweet Valley High **12.00** Ace Ventura **12.30pm** Casper **1.00** The Tick **1.30** Iron Man **2.00** Fantastic Four **2.30** Power Rangers Zeo **3.00** Beetleborgs **3.30** Masked Rider **4.00** Ace Ventura **4.30** Casper **5.00** The Tick **5.30** X Men **6.00** Spiderman ***6.30*** *Sweet Valley High*

TCC

6.00am Happily Ever After **6.30** Bobby's World **7.00** Spirou **7.30** Dennis the Menace **8.00** Batman **8.30** Bots Master **9.00** Art Attack ***9.30*** *Earthworm Jim* ***10.00*** *Gravedale High* **10.30** Flash Gordon **11.00** Iznogoud **11.30** Gigantor **12.00** Gravedale High **12.30pm** Bots Master **1.00** Batman **1.30** Eek **2.00** Spirou **2.30** Flash Gordon **3.00** Sonic **3.30** Earthworm Jim **4.00** Dennis the Menace **4.30** Art Attack **5.00** Close

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**, seven days a week.

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes **6.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters **7.00** Hey Arnold! **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Doug **8.30** Neverending Story **9.00** CBBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** Magic School Bus **11.30** Bananas in Pyjamas **12.00** Paddington Bear etc **12.30pm** Little Red Tractor etc **1.00** Dr Seuss **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Animal Show **2.30** CBBC **3.30** Rocko/Doug **4.00** Angry Beavers **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

12.00pm *Swan's Crossing* **12.30** *Ready or Not* **1.00** *Madison* **1.30** California Dreams **2.00** Saved by the Bell **2.30** Swan's Crossing **3.00** 9-2-5 **3.30** Ready or Not **4.00** Saved by the Bell **4.30** USA High **5.00** Hangtime **5.30** California Dreams **6.00** On the Make **6.16** Teenage Urban Adventurers ***6.30*** *Madison* ***7.00*** *Hangtime* **7.30** USA High **8.00** Close

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Cross Wits **5.30** Say the Word **6.00** Family Fortunes **6.30** Catchphrase **7.15** The $64,000 Question **8.00** Split Second **8.30** Move on Up **9.15** Winner Takes All **10.00** Treasure Hunt **11.15** Whittle **12.00** Say the Word **12.30am** Hart to Hart **1.30** The Big Valley **2.30** Big Brother Jake **3.00** Boogies Diner **3.30** Where I Live **4.00** Jeux Sans Frontières **5.00** Screenshop

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team (6149545) **9.00** Tour of Duty (6169309) **10.00** Red Shoe Diaries (9538670) **10.45** **FILM: Rambo: First Blood — Part II** (1985) (44400545) **12.35am** Leslie Nielson's Unbalanced World — Short (7711602) **12.45** Tour of Duty (6135030) **1.45** Red Shoe Diaries (3913666) **2.30** **FILM: Rambo: First Blood — Part II** (1985) (5688387) **4.20** Leslie Nielson's Unbalanced World — Short *(53023152)* ***4.30*** *The Head* (6803775) **5.00** The A-Team (6989881)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Grace Under Fire (7651) **7.30** Roseanne (6038) **8.00** Ellen (3699) **8.30** *Cybill (2106)* ***9.00*** *Cheers (560651)* **9.25** Doppelganger (264125) **9.30** Taxi (11816) **10.00** Frasier (50537) **10.30** The Kenny Everett Show (81187) **11.00** Festival of Fun (502670) **11.25** Doppelganger (495941) **11.30** Ellen (62038) **12.00** Roseanne (49572) **12.30am** Nightstand (33423) **1.00** Soap (41389) **1.30** Taxi (12688) **2.00** Festival of Fun (67713) **2.30** Grace Under Fire (46220) **3.00** Frasier (86775) **3.30** The Kenny Everett Show (37572) **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Sightings (4228835) **9.00** Dark Skies (4248599) **10.00** Alien Autopsy: Fact or Fiction? (4218458) **11.00** Friday the 13th (2531835) **12.00** Sightings (6211978) **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (6203688) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (7172648) **2.00** Dark Shadows (1687220) **2.30** New Alfred Hitchcock (1606355) **3.00** Friday the 13th (7318959) **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting (8700564) **9.30** Garden Club (9730922) **10.00** The Great Gardening Plot (6055380) **10.30** New Yankee Workshop (8706748) **11.00** Rex Hunt Specials (1420293) **11.30** Hometime (1421922) **12.00** Wheel Nuts (8617800) **12.30pm** This Old House (9741038) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (4903870) **1.30** Doing It Up (9740309) **2.00** The Furniture Guys (6987477) **2.30** Room for Improvement (7641583) **3.00** Two's Country (6999212) **3.30** Home Again (7540800) **4.00** Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm The Diceman (7632835) **4.30** Roadshow (7638019) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (6978729) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (7652699) **6.00** Wild Discovery: The Platypus — a Quiet Survivor (9726729) **7.00** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious Universe (6981293) **7.30** Disaster (7639748) **8.00** Discover Magazine (6152019) **9.00** Raging Planet (6165583) **10.00** Discovery Signature: Shipwreck (6168670) **11.00** Underwater Cops (4997019) **12.00** Flightline (3412249) **12.30am** Roadshow (5178423) **1.00** Disaster (6928084) **1.30** Beyond 2000 (2516336) **2.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Wild Italy: Home of the Ibex (7048038) **7.30** Play: The Nature of the Game (5702816) **8.00** Land of the Tiger (3318564) **9.00** Braving Alaska (3225800) **10.00** Volga: The Soul of Russia (3308187) **11.00** Invaders in Paradise (4951019) **12.00** Wild Italy: Home of the Ibex (3003065) **12.30am** Play: The Nature of the Game (6022846) **1.00** Close

TRAVEL (cable)

12.00pm Travel Live **1.00** Ridge Riders **1.30** Cities of the World **2.00** Worldwide Guide **2.30** Bruce's American Postcards **3.00** Railway Adventures Across Europe **3.30** Wet and Wild **4.00** Snow Safari **4.30** On the Horizon **5.00** Around Britain **5.30** Pathfinders **6.00** Aspects of Life **6.30** Innocent Abroad **7.00** Travel Live **8.00** Reel World **8.30** Snow Safari **9.00** Destinations ***10.00*** *Greg's World* ***10.30*** *On the Horizon* **11.00** Amazing Races **11.30** On the Road to the Islands **12.00** Close

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm D-Day: The Total Story (7277125) **5.00** Civil War Journal (2273106) **6.00** Ancient Mysteries (7988598) **7.00** Biography: Captain Bligh (2163583) **8.00** Close

CARLTON FOOD (cable)

12.00pm Food Network Daily **12.30** Alive and Cooking **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** *Aldo's Italian Job* ***2.00*** *Rustie's Real Cooks* **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Antony's Scotland **3.30** Graham Kerr's Kitchen **4.00** For Better, for Worse **4.30** Frances Bissell's West Country Kitchen **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living **9.00** I Dream of Jeannie **9.30** The Gordon Elliott Show **10.10** Jerry Springer **11.00** The Young and the Restless **11.50** Brookside **12.20pm** Why Me? **1.00** Tempest **1.50** Ready, Steady, Cook **2.30** Cheap Chic **3.00** Live at Three **4.05** Jerry Springer **5.00** Rolonda **5.50** Lucky Ladders **6.20** Ready, Steady, Cook **7.00** Hearts Afire **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **8.00** Adrenalin Junkies **9.00** Halifax fp **11.00** The Sex Files II **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** India Business Report **8.00** Business and Music **8.30** Raahat **9.00** Revathi **9.30** ZEE Health Show **10.00** Parvartan **11.00** Shahi Dawat **11.30** Baat Ban Jaye **12.00** Sailaab **12.30pm** Raahat **1.00** FILM **3.30** Gaane Anjaane **4.00** Quiz Contest **4.30** Pop Korn **5.00** ZEE Zone **5.30** Naya A-Z **6.00** Hum Paanch **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Aap Ki Farmaish **7.30** Chalo Cinema **8.00** News and Euronews **8.30** Daraar **9.00** Hum Aap Ke Hai Woh **9.30** *Ikke Pe Ikka* ***10.00*** *Tara* ***11.00*** *Sa Re Ga Ma* **12.00** Close

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TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25 1997

Scot fights back to share lead in RAC Rally after day of high drama in Welsh forests

McRae's nerve survives dawn test

By Alan Lee

IN THE treacherous minutes before a fogbound dawn yesterday, Colin McRae drove blind into a ditch in Mid Wales. A year of planning and a week of high expectation looked to have suffered a jarring, disillusioning end: the motor rallying world championship was surely beyond recall. McRae, however, acknowledges neither fear nor logic and he spent the rest of a dramatic day scorning such conventional thinking.

Having dropped from first to eighth while his Subaru, still relatively intact, regained the road, McRae uttered a few curses and a significant pledge. "It's flat out all the way now," he promised his team and they knew better than to doubt him.

The redoubtable Scot relishes adversity. Despite his breakfast-time setback, he also loves the forest stages that examine every nerve and instinct of his breed. In the next four stages, to Cardigan Bay and back, he was devastatingly quick, rebuilding his challenge for this Network Q RAC Rally and, more importantly, for the world championship.

McRae finished the penultimate day sharing the overall lead with his fellow Briton, Richard Burns. From there, he will widely be expected to win. Equally pertinent today, however, will be the health and whereabouts of the championship leader, Tommi Makinen. He is sixth overnight and, if he stays there, he will deprive McRae of the crown.

As Makinen, still suffering from a heavy cold and forcing himself to drive for safety more than glory, has a cushion of 73 seconds over Piero Liatti in seventh, he is in no immediate danger. Nothing, however, is predetermined in this sport of spectacular risk, as the roller-coaster events yesterday amply confirmed.

Two stages were abandoned because of serious accidents, though in each case after the leaders had completed: a spectator broke a leg trying to jump a wall; and the organisers' sweeper car, that follows the final contestant, rolled off the road in Hafren, both of its occupants being taken to hospital with minor injuries.

There was also a significant technical diversion, with both the Mitsubishi cars, driven by Burns and Makinen, sustaining time penalties for being late out of the Dolgellau service area, after running repairs. Burns was docked ten seconds, a bonus for McRae, and Makinen's 20-second penalty may yet be costly.

The tone and tensions of the day, though, were established on a bleak mountainside in Radnorshire just before 7.30am. Anyone who has experienced the black terror of driving too fast in fog may have nightmares about the episode.

Driving a stage first is, theoretically, the event leader's privilege. In pre-dawn fog, it is much more of a penance. McRae, with no scope for caution, paid the price. "I couldn't see a thing," he said. "I drove off a straight piece of road. It's a terrible start — it shouldn't happen. Rallies should be decided by who drives the fastest, not by the weather."

Spurred on by anger, or desperation, McRae's revival was rapid. Burns, who led McRae by 79 seconds after the Radnor stage, saw that advantage cut by 28, 14, ten and 13 seconds in the next four drives. After his brush with the stewards at Dolgellau, Burns was a mere four seconds ahead.

Doubtless, Burns was aware that most of his countrymen in the vast and intriguing spectator subculture of this event were behind McRae. Yet, at 26, he could become only the third Briton to win the RAC event since it took world championship status 25 years ago. He could also inherits McRae's profile in years to come.

His morning drive in Radnor was startlingly good and produced from him the quote of the day. "Visibility was down to ten metres in places," he said. "At times like this, there are no sharp definitions to forest driving — it's brown, darker brown and then hard, brown things."

Not everyone managed to avoid the hard, brown things. The most severe incident occurred on stage 13 at Hafren, resulting in John Leckie and his co-driver, Graham Lewis, lying motionless in their wrecked vehicle. The stage was stopped and Lewis, who sustained chest and back injuries, was airlifted to Aberystwyth hospital.

On days such as this, the safety provisions of the event are fully examined. The rally is followed by 60 special ambulances with cutting gear and 12 fire tenders. There are also 50 doctors attached, quite apart from the 11,000 volunteer marshals. It is a staggering undertaking but, for the perils of the Welsh forests in November, utterly essential.

McRae, who was arguably fortunate to escape with body and car unscathed yesterday, will hope to have no need of such emergency facilities today. The strength of his recovery, however, has a legacy he would have been happier to delegate. This morning, he must once again set off first, this time at 7.06am, into the virgin rally territory above Mountain Ash. If his dream survives until daylight, there is quite a day in store.

McRae, in a Subaru Impreza, presses on in the ethereal half-light of stage 13 of the Network Q RAC Rally in the Hafren Forest, Mid Wales, yesterday. Photograph: Laurence Griffiths/Allsport

DETAILS FROM SECOND DAY

STAGE 12 (11 6 miles): 1. R Burns (GB, Mitsubishi Carisma) 9min 28sec; 2. B Thiry (Bel, Ford Escort) at 17sec; 3. A McRae (GB, Volkswagen Golf) 18; 4. C Sainz (Sp, Ford Escort) 22; 5. M Higgins (GB, Nissan Almera) 25; 6. A Vatanen (Fin, Ford Escort) 26; 7. P Liatti (It, Subaru Impreza) 31; 8. R Head (GB, Renault Megane) 22; 9. T Makinen (Fin, Mitsubishi Lancer) 37; 10. G Evans (GB, Seat Ibiza) 41sec.

STAGE 13 (24 5 miles): 1. C McRae (GB, Subaru Impreza) 23min 54sec; 2. Burns at 28sec; equal 3. Sainz and J Kankkunen (Fin, Ford Escort) 38; 5. M Gronholm (Swe, Toyota Corolla) 44; 6. D Auriol (Fr, Toyota Corolla) 1min 07sec; 7. Makinen 1:24; 8. G de Mevius (Bel, Ford Escort) 1:29; 9. Liatti 1:54; 10 Vatanen 1:55

STAGE 14 (9.75 miles): 1. C McRae 8:45; 2. Sainz at 07sec; 3. Burns 14; 4. Kankkunen 15; 5. Auriol 23; 6. Makinen 26; 7. Thiry 27; 8. Liatti 36; 9 De Mevius 41, 10. Vatanen 43.

STAGE 15 (14 8 miles): 1. C McRae 14:11; 2. Burns at 10sec; 3. Sainz 12; 4. Kankkunen 15; 5. Auriol 29; 6. Gronholm 35; 7. Thiry 38; 8. Liatti 39; 9. Makinen 42; 10. De Mevius 50

STAGE 16 (9.3 miles): 1. C McRae 8:36; 2. Burns at 13sec; equal 3. Sainz and Kankkunen 14; 5. Auriol 21; 6. Gronholm 26; 7. Makinen 28; 8. Thiry 32; 9. Liatti 33; 10. De Mevius 37

STAGE 17 (18 miles): 1. Kankkunen 18:46; 2. Burns at 01sec; 3. C McRae 02; 4. Sainz 26; 5. Gronholm 28; 6. Makinen 34; 7. De Mevius 1min 14sec; 8. Liatti 1:19; 9. A Medeghini (It, Ford Escort) 1:41; 10. A McRae 1:56.

STAGE 18 (10.9 miles): 1. C McRae 10:43; 2. Burns 05sec; 3. Kankkunen 18; 4. Gronholm 28; 5. Liatti 40; 6. Makinen 42; 7. De Mevius 43; 8. K Holowczyc (Pol, Subaru Impreza) 57; 9. A McRae 1min 3sec; 10. Sainz at 1:04

OVERALL POSITIONS: Equal 1. C McRae and Burns 2hr 13min 43sec; 3. Kankkunen at 1min 16sec; 4. Sainz 1:45; 5. Gronholm 3:40; 6. Makinen 3:59; 7. Liatti 5:12; 8. De Mevius 5:59; 9. Vatanen 9:38; 10. Holowczyc 10:17

THIRD DAY: Cheltenham-Rheol-Cheltenham)

Adams agrees to sign for Sussex

By Our Sports Staff

CHRIS ADAMS will today become the highest paid English player in county cricket when he signs a three-year contract with Sussex and becomes the club's new captain.

Adams, 27, the former Derbyshire batsman, has negotiated with several counties since the England and Wales Cricket Board agreed he could be downgraded to a list two player but ordered a two-week "cooling off" before he made his move.

Despite fierce opposition from Kent and Nottinghamshire, Adams decided to join Sussex after agreeing a deal which will earn him an estimated £200,000.

It ends a stormy relationship with Derbyshire, who agreed to his release at the end of last summer after Adams had been treated as a virtual outcast by the other players for siding with Dean Jones, the former captain, in the aftermath of his stormy departure.

Adams has also been handed the opportunity to take on greater responsibility as captain in succession to Peter Moores, who will fill the newly-created role of player-coach next season.

Tony Pigott, the Sussex chief executive, said: "Chris is possibly the best batsman in the country not to have played for England. It's great that he wants to come and join us in our present situation. He is explosive in the one-day game but he can also play a long innings in the championship, and he is one of the best slip fielders in the country as well."

Michael Bevan, the Australia batsman, whom Sussex signed as their overseas player last month, has been appointed vice-captain. The pair should bring stability to a batting line-up that performed poorly last season. Sussex failed to pass 200 in 12 of their 31 championship innings and lost eight of their last ten matches to finish bottom of the Britannic Assurance county championship and the AXA Life League.

Sussex also confirmed an interest in signing James Bovill, the fast bowler released by Hampshire. Bovill, 26, was restricted to just nine first-class matches last season by a spinal injury that seemed likely to end his career.

Adams: lucrative deal

Pigott said: "We are seeking medical reports. There are processes to go through and I don't expect a decision before the new year."

Bovill said: "The fracture has healed and there is no problem now. Sussex have been very positive and Dave Gilbert [the director of cricket] says the problem may have been caused by a fault in my action which he can help to iron out."

Fulham pull out of Coleman deal

By Matt Dickinson

IF NOTHING else, Fulham's attempt to spend £2.1 million on Chris Coleman, of Blackburn Rovers, has proved one thing: Kevin Keegan, the chief operations officer, was serious when he talked about leading them into the FA Carling Premiership.

The Nationwide League second division club was disappointed yesterday when its attempt to lure the Wales defender was foiled by the player's wage demands. Coleman, a long way down the queue for a starting place at Ewood Park, was prepared to countenance the drop from a club lying second in the Premiership to Craven Cottage, but he wanted to be well rewarded for it.

Fulham, who had agreed the fee with Blackburn, were willing to break the transfer record for a second-division player, but they balked at shattering their own, rapidly increasing wage structure. Instead, they are likely to sign another Welshman, Paul Trollope, of Derby County, for £600,000. The 25-year-old has played for Grimsby Town and Crystal Palace on loan.

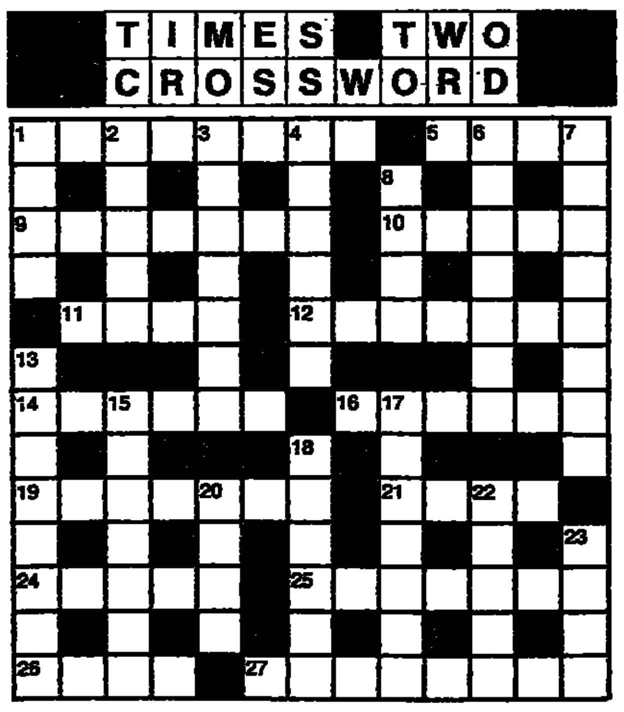
It is Fulham's failed bid for Coleman, however, that will cause a stir in the Nationwide League. Ray Wilkins, the manager, has already spent more than £2.5 million, including £1.1 million on Paul Peschisolido, the striker who is the division's most expensive recruit and who has scored five goals in seven games. Paul Bracewell has been signed from Sunderland, Ian Selley from Arsenal and Maik Taylor from Southampton.

Across London, Joe Kinnear's position as the Wimbledon manager has become a surprising topic for speculation after Egil Olsen, the Norway coach, was invited to Selhurst Park last Saturday. Olsen watched Wimbledon's defeat against Manchester United as guest of the club's managing director, Bjorn Rune Gjelsten, and the fact that Olsen will step down as the Norway coach after the World Cup finals next summer, combined with his close links with Wimbledon's new Scandinavian owners, yesterday provoked Kinnear to demand assurances about his future.

Olsen, who is being sought by several clubs, including Marseilles, was quick to stress yesterday that he has no intention of joining Wimbledon and that he was simply making one of his regular scouting trips to England. He also said that he had spoken to the club's new Norwegian signing, Staale Solbakken, after the game.

"If I got an offer to come to England I would consider it, but I'm not thinking about that just now," Olsen said. "I have a job with the Norwegian FA and I will be going to the World Cup as Norway coach. I will be leaving the Norway job after the World Cup. My ambition then is to live a quieter life and become a bit more anonymous than I am now. But I will stay in football."

Relaxed Villa 48
Blake waits 48
Model design 48



No 1260

ACROSS
- 1 Exhibition tent: summerhouse (8)
- 5 Mammals: crazy (4)
- 9 Throw away (7)
- 10 Prisoner restraints: domestic appliances (5)
- 11 Surety for prisoner (4)
- 12 Not exceptional (7)
- 14 Catch fire (6)
- 16 (Supply) be exhausted (3,3)
- 19 Tiredness (7)
- 21 Grand dance (4)
- 24 Felled tree remains (5)
- 25 Sewer's finger guard (7)
- 26 Twisted fibres: set of eg pearls (4)
- 27 Limit, edge (8)

DOWN
- 1 Absorbent felt pieces: walks quietly (4)
- 2 Prospect, eg down avenue (5)
- 3 Publicity sheet (7)
- 4 Severe trial (6)
- 6 Dull green: a 'pear' (7)
- 7 Has an idea: possible criminals (8)
- 8 Extensive (4)
- 13 Anti-glare light fitting (8)
- 15 All-suits-equal (contract) (2,5)
- 17 Central Italian: school of Raphael (7)
- 18 Type of penguin: *got one*? (*anag.*) (6)
- 20 Stare with mouth open (4)
- 22 Star sign, Sep/Oct (5)
- 23 Pronounce untrue (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1259

ACROSS: 1 Slat 3 Mammoth 8 Ontario 9 Creed 10 Tipsy 11 Liaison 13 Denigrate 17 In/sight 19 Chute 20 Kaaba 22 Lineage 23 Transit 24 Fell

DOWN: 1 Smooth 2 Antipodes 3 Moonlight flit 4 Mecca 5 Ode 6 Hiding 7 Crayon 12 Speculate 14 Accent 15 Picket 16 Repeal 18 Glass 21 AAA

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